LACKADAISY

Volume 1

TRACY J. BUTLER

4DE

Lackadaisy
Volume 1

Author & Artist
Tracy J. Butler

Editor & Publisher
Eric San Gregorio

Layout and Lettering
Rossetti Design International

Assistant Editor
Heather Moore

©2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 Tracy J. Butler
Lackadaisy © and ® 2006-2015 - Tracy J. Butler
Lackadaisy: Volume 1 (English Edition) ©2009 - 2015 4th Dimension Entertainment, Inc.
4th Dimension Entertainment ® 2008 - 2015

4th Dimension Entertainment, Inc.
Website: 4de.com
Email: info@4de.com

4th Dimension Entertainment ® is a registered trademark of 4th Dimension Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. This graphic novel is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual events, or locales, or persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.

ISBN # 978-0-9819-5990-0

First English printing: February 2009

10 9 8 7 6 5 4

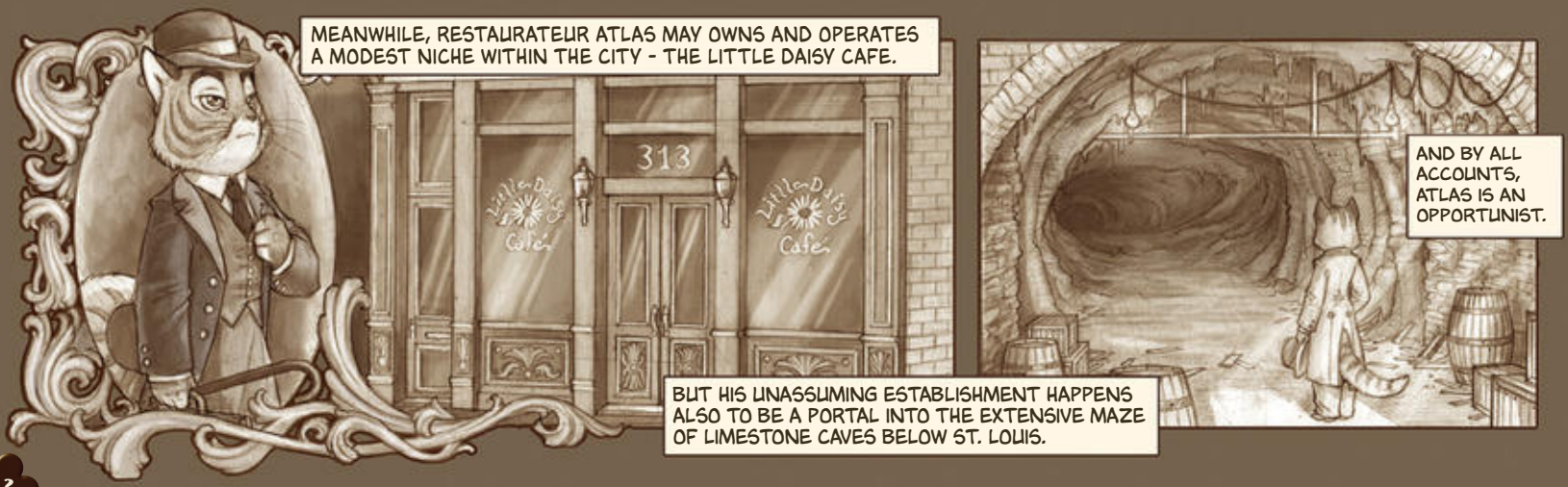
Printed in China

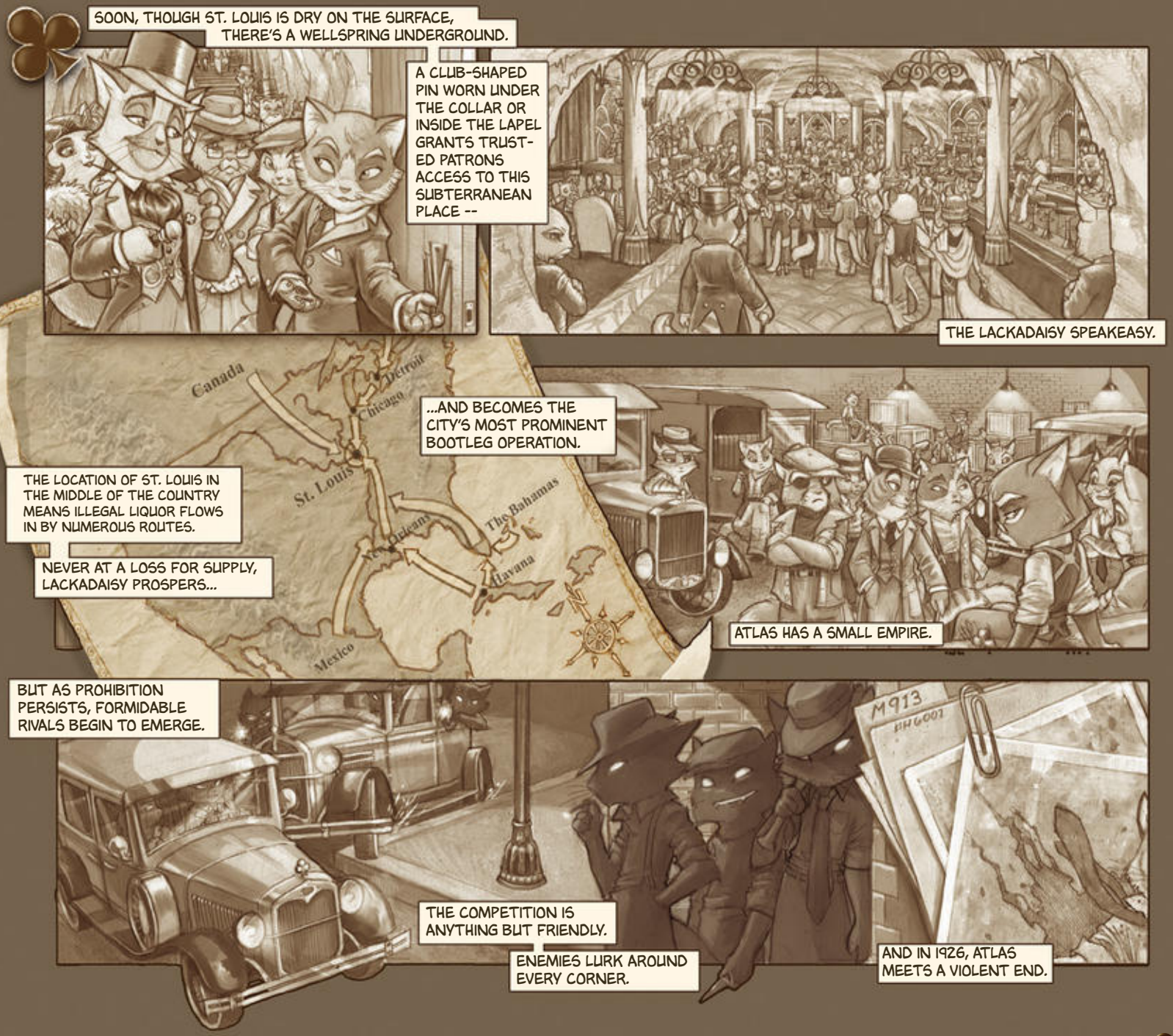
Tracy J. Butler

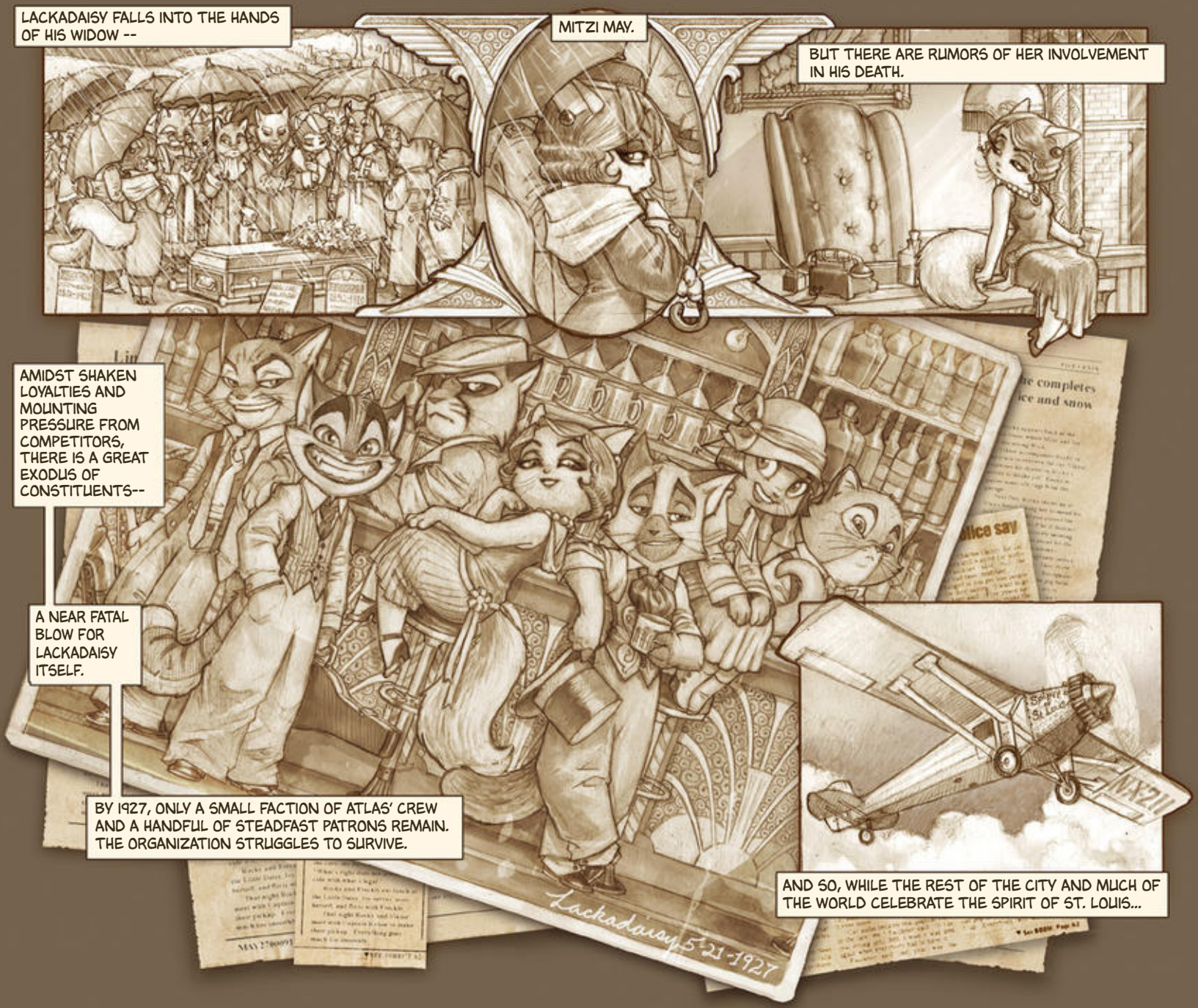
LACKADAISY

St. Louis
1920: LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF THE MISSISSIPPI AND MISSOURI RIVERS, THE CITY IS ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST.
IT'S BOTH A BUSY RIVER PORT...
... AND A MAJOR TRAIN HUB.

BONE-DRY FOREVER AS OF JULY 1ST
~NATIONAL PROHIBITION~
THE RECENT ENACTMENT OF NATIONAL PROHIBITION PROMISES TO BRING GREAT CHANGE.
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.
THE CITY'S ONCE PROSPEROUS BREWERIES STRUGGLE TO REMAIN IN BUSINESS.
MOST DO NOT SURVIVE.
BUT AN EMERGING UNDERGROUND INDUSTRY BEGINS FILLING THE GAPS ...
... OR THE TAPS, AS IT WERE.


MEANWHILE, RESTAURATEUR ATLAS MAY OWNS AND OPERATES A MODEST NICHE WITHIN THE CITY - THE LITTLE DAISY CAFE.
313
Little Daisy Cafe
BUT HIS UNASSUMING ESTABLISHMENT HAPPENS ALSO TO BE A PORTAL INTO THE EXTENSIVE MAZE OF LIMESTONE CAVES BELOW ST. LOUIS.
AND BY ALL ACCOUNTS, ATLAS IS AN OPPORTUNIST.


SOON, THOUGH ST. LOUIS IS DRY ON THE SURFACE, THERE'S A WELLSPRING UNDERGROUND.
A CLUB-SHAPED PIN WORN UNDER THE COLLAR OR INSIDE THE LAPEL GRANTS TRUSTED PATRONS ACCESS TO THIS SUBTERRANEAN PLACE --
THE LACKADAISY SPEAKEASY.
Canada
Detroit
Chicago
St. Louis
New Orleans
The Bahamas
Havana
Mexico
...AND BECOMES THE CITY'S MOST PROMINENT BOOTLEG OPERATION.
THE LOCATION OF ST. LOUIS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY MEANS ILLEGAL LIQUOR FLOWS IN BY NUMEROUS ROUTES.
NEVER AT A LOSS FOR SUPPLY, LACKADAISY PROSPERS...
ATLAS HAS A SMALL EMPIRE.
BUT AS PROHIBITION PERSISTS, FORMIDABLE RIVALS BEGIN TO EMERGE.
M913
THE COMPETITION IS ANYTHING BUT FRIENDLY.
ENEMIES LURK AROUND EVERY CORNER.
AND IN 1926, ATLAS MEETS A VIOLENT END.

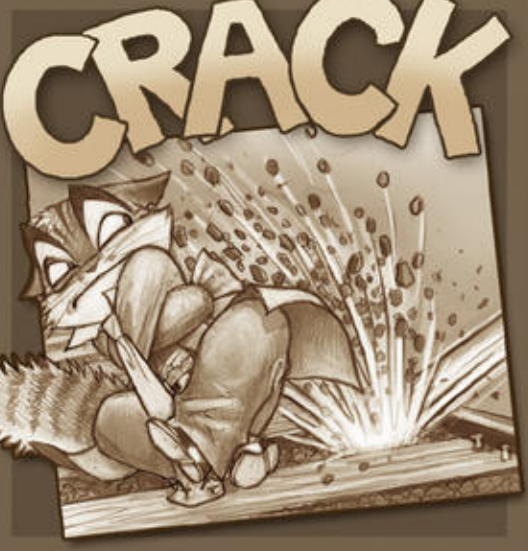

LACKADAISY FALLS INTO THE HANDS OF HIS WIDOW --
MITZI MAY.
BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF HER INVOLVEMENT IN HIS DEATH.
AMIDST SHAKEN LOYALTIES AND MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM COMPETITORS, THERE IS A GREAT EXODUS OF CONSTITUENTS--
A NEAR FATAL BLOW FOR LACKADAISY ITSELF.
BY 1927, ONLY A SMALL FACTION OF ATLAS' CREW AND A HANDFUL OF STEADFAST PATRONS REMAIN. THE ORGANIZATION STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE.
AND SO, WHILE THE REST OF THE CITY AND MUCH OF THE WORLD CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF ST. LOUIS...
Lackadaisy 5-21-1927

...CERTAIN OTHER INDIVIDUALS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE SPIRITS IN ST. LOUIS.
CAPTAIN KEHOE! HOW'S OLD MUDDY MISS' TREATING YOU THIS FINE DAY?
DUCKY.
GLAD TO HEAR IT. AH, CONCERNING YOUR CARGO - IF I COULD HAVE THE WHERE AND WHEN....
TOMORROW AFTER MIDNIGHT. ENTRANCE TO ENGLISH CAVE.
AND WHATEVER QUARREL YOU HAVE, SETTLE IT HERE.
I DON'T WANT IT ON MY HANDS.
?
OH HELL.
YOU? AGAIN?
C'MON! JUST HOW MUCH LIQUOR DO YOU NEED TO SUSTAIN THAT RIVERSIDE SHANTY YOU CALL AN ESTABLISHMENT?
ALL OF IT.
DIDN'T YOU SWALLOW ENOUGH TEETH LAST TIME WE TALKED ABOUT THIS?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DID ... BUT I BET I STILL HAVE MORE THAN Y--
EWCK
YANK

HHAHH!
OVER-DRESSED MOSQUITO.
YANK
HEY, THAT'S A CLEVER TRICK. ....WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WE'RE GONNA GO FER A RIDE.
UH, THIS DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T BE MAKING THAT PICK-UP!
VAAAH!
HRK!
WE GOT ANY ROPE OR ANYTHIN' IN THE TRUCK?
NAW.
GOT A TOOLBOX, THOUGH.
WHY THE SPECIAL TREATMENT, GUYS? COULDN'T YOU JUST BASH ME OVER THE HEAD WITH SOMETHING AND CALL IT A DAY?
WELL, AVRIL'S IN A BAD MOOD TODAY 'CAUSE ONE-A THE PIGS GONE MAD AND WE HAD TA SHOOT IT.
WHAM
OH.
I GUESS THAT MAKES YOU MY TRAVEL COMPANION.
I'LL CALL YOU FROTHY.
... FROTHY, WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE WE'RE GOING?

WELL, I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS IS SOMEWHAT MORE CREATIVE THAN I EXPECTED...

... FROM A BUNCH OF WITLESS RUBES!


CRACK

I HOPE YOU BOYS ARE PREPARED TO BE DISAP-POINTED...
HRRRRN
...BECAUSE BEING RUN DOWN BY SOME-THING CALLED THE *SUNSHINE SPECIAL* IS TOO IRONIC TO BE POSSIBLE.

SIGH SO.... YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT. KEHOE IS ALL YOURS.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I DO HAVE OTHER INDIVIDUALS TO BE HARASSED BY TODAY.
POINT? THERE AIN'T NO POINT 'CEPT TO WATCH YOU GET HIT BY THAT TRAIN.
EMERY HERE NEVER SEEN ANYTHIN' HIT BY A TRAIN B'FORE.
NOPE, NEVER.

REALLY? WELL, YOU'VE BEEN MISSING OUT. THE SPLATTER IS SOMETHING TO BEHOLD. IT'S REALLY QUITE, UH...
...SPECTACULAR.

AND, UH, SINCE IT'S A SPECIAL OCCASION, WHY NOT MAXIMIZE THE CARNAGE? THAT IS, I THINK YOU MAY HAVE JUST ENOUGH TIME TO ADD A CERTAIN PIG TO THE MIX.

WELL, THAT'S AN IDEA.
CAREFUL. HE'S A TRICKY ONE.
NO HE AIN'T. HE'S AN IDIOT.
CAN'T TAKE A MAD PIG TO MARKET ANYHOW.

MIGHT AS WELL GET RID OF TWO CRACKPOTS WITH ONE TRAIN.
...LIKE MA WOULD SAY.

AND DON'T YOU MOVE FROM THAT SPOT OR I'LL SHOOT YOU, THEN WATCH YOU GET HIT BY A TRAIN!

I KNEW YOU'D COME THROUGH FOR ME, FROTHY.
NUDGE NUDGE
RRRRG
RRRR
DAMN! DURABLE MERCERIZED COTTON -SILK BLEND!

I'LL JUST HAVE TO..HOW DID IT GO? ELBOW DOWN ...
... ARMS ... AROUND...
GNR GNRRR
THAT'S A LOTTA MOVIN' FER SOMEONE AIN'T SUPPOSED TO BE MOVIN'.
I CAN'T HELP IT. I HAVE A CONDITION.
NOT FER MUCH LONGER. YOU JUST HOLD FAST.
WHAT?
YOU'LL HAVE TO SPEAK LOUDER AND STOP VIBRATING. I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!
WHAT?
CHIG-CHIG CHIG-CHIG CHIG-CHIG CHIG-CHIG CHIG-CHIG CHIG-CHIG
I SAID...
RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRBKAM
HEHEHEHE HE HE HEHE! HEHE-
SPLAK
AHAHAHEH!

Little Daisy
Cafe
DID YOU FINISH REFIGURING EXPENSES?
NO. AS FAR AS READING MATERIAL GOES, THE LEDGER IS TOO DEPRESSING.
I DECIDED TO READ THE OBITUARIES INSTEAD.
WHEN YOU GET A LITTLE OLDER, YOU'LL DISCOVER THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TRAGEDY AND COMEDY...
...IS WHETHER IT HAPPENED TO YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE.
OH, LOOK. WICK IS IN THE PAPER TODAY.
IN THE OBITUARIES?
THE BUSINESS SECTION, SWEETIE. APPARENTLY HE'S DOING RATHER WELL FOR HIMSELF LATELY.
I SUPPOSE NOT ALL NEWS IS BAD N--
THUNK
GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES! IT'S A LOVELY DAY OUT THERE ... FOR AN EXTRAORDINARILY LONG WALK...
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN ALL DAY?
THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BRIEF RENDEZVOUS.
I'M SORRY, MISS M.
SOME OF THE LOCALS INSISTED ON SEEING ME REENACT "THE PERILS OF PAULINE."
OH! CUSTOMERS! I DIDN'T REALIZE WE ACTUALLY SERVED ANYONE HERE.
HELLO.
HOW IS YOUR LUNCH? ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR LUNCH?
OR WOULD YOU SAY IT'S MORE OF AN EARLY DINNER?
ROCKY, YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU FRIGHTEN THE ELDERLY, COME TALK TO US OVER HERE.
WE'RE IN NEED OF ANY BUSINESS WE CAN GET. FINANCES HAVE HER LOOKING TO DEAD PEOPLE FOR A LAUGH.
OH, WELL. KNOWING KEHOE, THAT FREIGHT HAS AN UNUSUALLY HIGH CONTENT OF EMBALMING FLUID ANYWAY.
NO, NO! YOU MISUNDERSTAND! DESPITE APPEARANCES MISS M., TODAY HAS BEEN A, UH, UNEQUIVOCAL SUCCESS. I JUST ... NEED TO FIND THE CAR.
OH, HONEY, YOU LOST THE CAR? IT'S ALL WE HAVE LEFT BESIDES THAT OLD TRUCK I HAD TO SELL THE REST.
DON'T WORRY. IF I CAN JUST BORROW A CERTAIN SURLY SLOVAK FOR A BIT, I'LL GET IT RIGHT BACK.
THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF EMBALMING FLUID TO GO AROUND TOMORROW NIGHT.
CHECK IN THE GARAGE. IVY, YOU GO ALONG TOO. VIKTOR WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO THROTTLE HIM IN YOUR PRESENCE.
SURE!

YOU KNOW HOW WHEN VIKTOR LOOKS AT YOU, IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S SEARING A HOLE THROUGH YOUR FACE?
WELL, I HAVE A THEORY ABOUT THAT.
BY HAVING TO PASS THROUGH THAT SINGULAR OCULAR OF HIS...
...THE, UH, HATE ENERGY HE RADIATES EXPERIENCES SOME SORT OF AMPLIFICATION IN A MANNER NOT UNLIKE STIMULATED EMISSION AS, UH, EINSTEIN DESCRIBED IT, RESULTING IN A KIND OF HIGHLY INTENSIFIED...
...GLARE BEAM.
VIKTOR!
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TODAY! BUNCH OF YOKELS A TRUCK AND NE TO THE AND I HAD E A PIG TO GET OUT--
OH! I NEED TO SHOW YOU MY SHOES! MY DAD SENT MONEY SO I COULD BUY SOME BOOKS I NEED FOR THE SUMMER SEMESTER BUT I SAW THESE AT FAMOUS-BARR WHILE I OKING FOR SOME HAT
NOISE NOISE NOISE
NO.
NO? BUT VIKTOR, WE DIDN'T EVEN ASK A QUESTION.
UH, I JUST NEED SOME HELP GETTING THE CAR.
COULD YOU, PLEASE--?
NOT NAOW. I'M BUSY.
?
I WAS HOPING IT WOULDN'T COME TO THIS, VIKTOR!
YAALIGH! BAD KNEES! GET OFF!
HOW ABOUT IF I BEND YOUR FINGERS THE WRONG WAY? HOW ABOUT THAT??
I'LL CRUSH THE AIR OUT OF YOUR LUNGS, YOU BIG ORNERY OX!
OKAY, DIEVKA. GET OFF.
OKAY? WAS THAT A 'YES'? AND YOU AREN'T GONNA KILL HIM, RIGHT?
PAL
UH, YA. AREN'T GONNA KILL HIM, RIGHT. GET OFF.

WELL, HE'S ALL YOURS. SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO ROUGH HIM UP A LITTLE BIT, BUT REALLY, HE'S JUST A BIG TEDDY BEAR ONCE YOU--
VIKTOR! PUT THE WRENCH DOWN - YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T!
AHEM I, UH, HAVE A BIT OF A DILEMMA, VIKTOR. AS FORTUNE WOULD HAVE IT, THERE'S A PICK-UP TOMORROW NIGHT. BUT TO THE CONTRARY, UM, FORTUNE-WISE, UH, IT SEEMS I'LL HAVE A GAGGLE OF BELLIGERENT CLODHOPPERS TO CONTEND WITH, AND, SO, WELL ...
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD HAVE SOME VALUABLE ADVICE OR PERHAPS SOME WORDS OF INSPIRATION FOR YOUR YOUNG PROTEGE.
QUIT.
QUIT?? I CAN'T QUIT, VIKTOR. WHO WOULD BE LEFT TO BRING MISS M. HER GIN AND WHISKEY AND... COFFIN VARNISH?
HAOW CAN I HELP VHEN YOU ARE SO MUCH LIKE, EH... SPAGHETTI NOODLE?
I'M LIKE A SPAGHETTI NOODLE?
YA, SKINNY. NO MAH-SCLE.
THAT IS VHY YOU COME BACK LOOKING ALVAYS LIKE YOU GOT HIT BY A TRAIN.
...SAYS THE ONE-EYED MAN WITH KNEES THAT DON'T BEND.
ONE OF THEM BENDS, SOMEVHAT.
AND THAT IS AFTER SEVEN YEARS AT THIS VORK.
WELL, MY RECORD FOR NOT GETTING HIT BY TRAINS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD. I KNOW I'VE BEEN IN A LOT OF SCRAPES SINCE I STARTED, BUT I'VE SURVIVED THEM ALL WITH MINIMAL, UH...
WITH, UM...
UHHH...
WHAT WAS I, UH--?
HEY, YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE I COULD FIND A PIG FARM AROUND HERE, WOULD YOU?
SOMEWHERE BY THE RIVER?
NO?

...BECAUSE I WAS THINKING, ...UM. THAT IS, BECAUSE I COULDN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THAT OILY RAG IN YOUR POCKET.
YOU'RE PRACTICALLY POINTING AT IT. HEH. HOW COULD I IGNORE IT?
AND, UH...
O, FOR A MUSE OF FIRE ...
VHAT?
I MEAN I HAVE AN IDEA. YOU WANNA HEAR MY ID
GET OUT.
SURE. GETTING OUT ...
OH! THANKS FOR YOUR HELP ...

... AND FOR NOT CRUSHING MY SKULL WITH A BLUNT INSTRUMENT!
RRRRRRM

GOOD EVENING, DEAR.
HUAH!
IT MIGHT INTEREST YOU TO KNOW SEDGEWICK SABLE IS HAVING A NEW QUARRY BLASTED JUST WEST OF HERE, BETWEEN THE TWO RIVERS.
THERE'S QUITE A LIST OF DIGNITARIES ATTENDING THE, ... UM, CHRISTENING.
I SUPPOSE THAT CALLS FOR A SPECIAL INVITATION?
THEY'RE BLOWING SOMETHING UP, AFTER ALL. WHAT BETTER REASON TO CELEBRATE?
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
YES?
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL CONVERSING SO INDISCREETLY WITH THE PORTRAITURE, MISS M.
PEOPLE ARE LIABLE TO THINK YOU'RE CRAZIER THAN A CAN OF CRICKET JUICE.
OH, ROCKY...
A-HEM COME ON IN.
I FOUND YOUR ADDING MACHINE.
THANK YOU, SWEETIE.
ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD YOU CAME.
YOU ARE?
YOU'RE STILL CERTAIN YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON THAT FREIGHT TOMORROW NIGHT? WE MAY HAVE SOME IMPORTANT GUESTS, AND I CAN'T KEEP WATERING DOWN THAT WATERED-DOWN WHISKEY WE'VE GOT LEFT.
ABSOLUTELY.
AND NOT ONLY BECAUSE I GOT MY HAT BACK, AND THE CAR, BUT BECAUSE VIKTOR GAVE ME SOME INVALUABLE, UH, BECAUSE, WELL, HE SEEMED TO SUGGEST THE TROUBLE IS THAT I'M THE WRONG KIND OF NOODLE.
TOMORROW, I'LL BE MORE LIKE ... LINGUINE!
MM-HMMM.
THE UNION TRUST BUILDING. IT'S GETTING LATE, BUT THE DOORMAN SHOULD TAKE IT - IF YOU COULD JUST DROP IT OFF ON YOUR WAY TO ... WHEREVER IT IS YOU LIVE.

G-CHK

MR. SABLE?

MR. SABLE.

SOME THUG BROUGHT THIS MESSAGE FOR YOU.
WHUH?
IT'S JUST YOUR LETTER OPENER, MR. SABLE. THE DOORMAN SAID THE COURIER LOOKED LIKE SOME SCRUFFY EXCUSE FOR A HOODLUM.

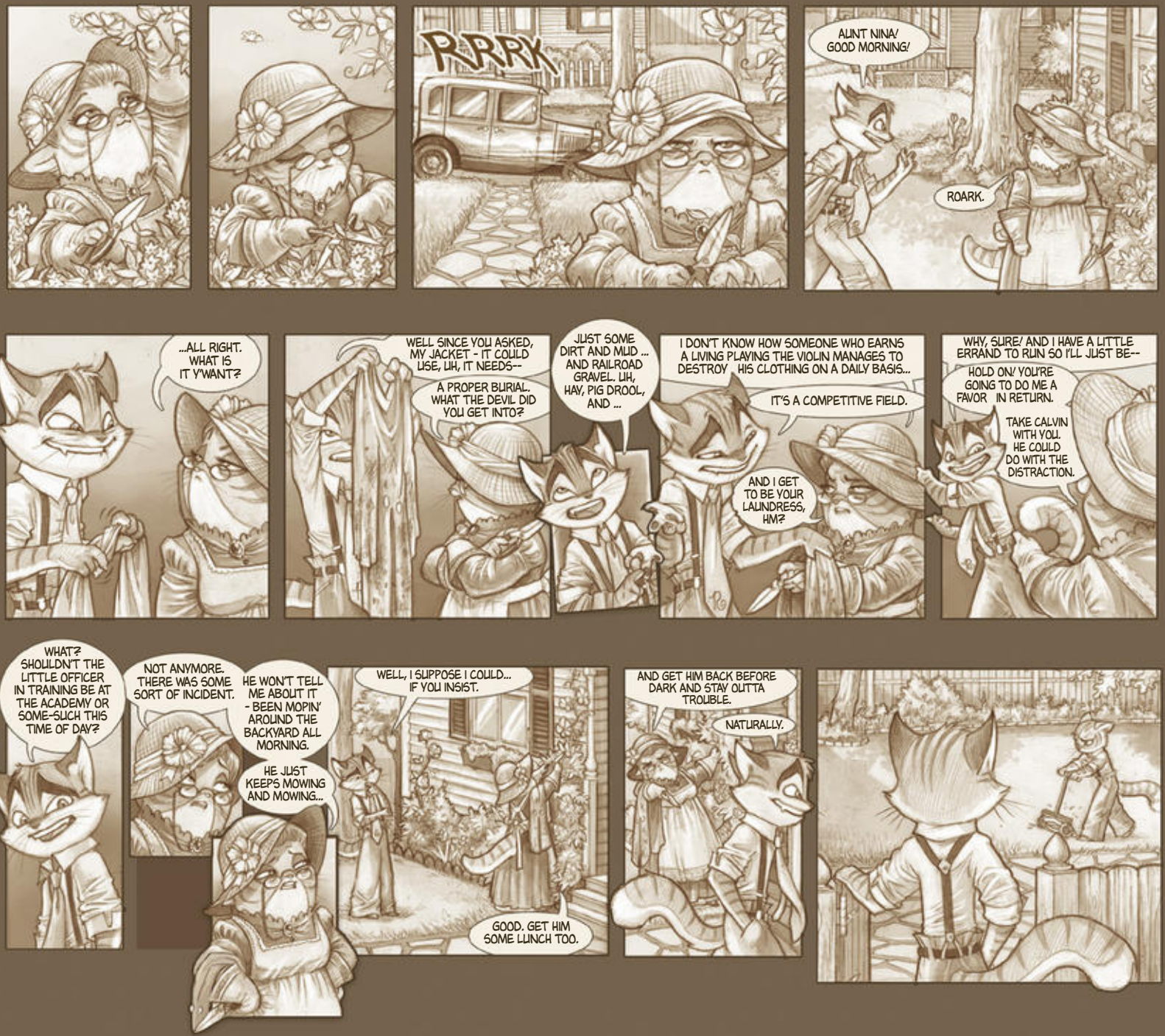
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT, LACY?

WELL I FIGURED I'D STAY AND MAKE MORE COFFEE IF YOU NEEDED IT...BUT I THINK MAYBE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.

WHY DON'T YOU HEAD ON HOME AND GET SOME REST? UH, YOU KNOW, BIG DAY TOMORROW AND ALL ...

Hodgewick,
How about a toast to good tidings and new prospects?
~Mitzi
P.S Bring some friends.

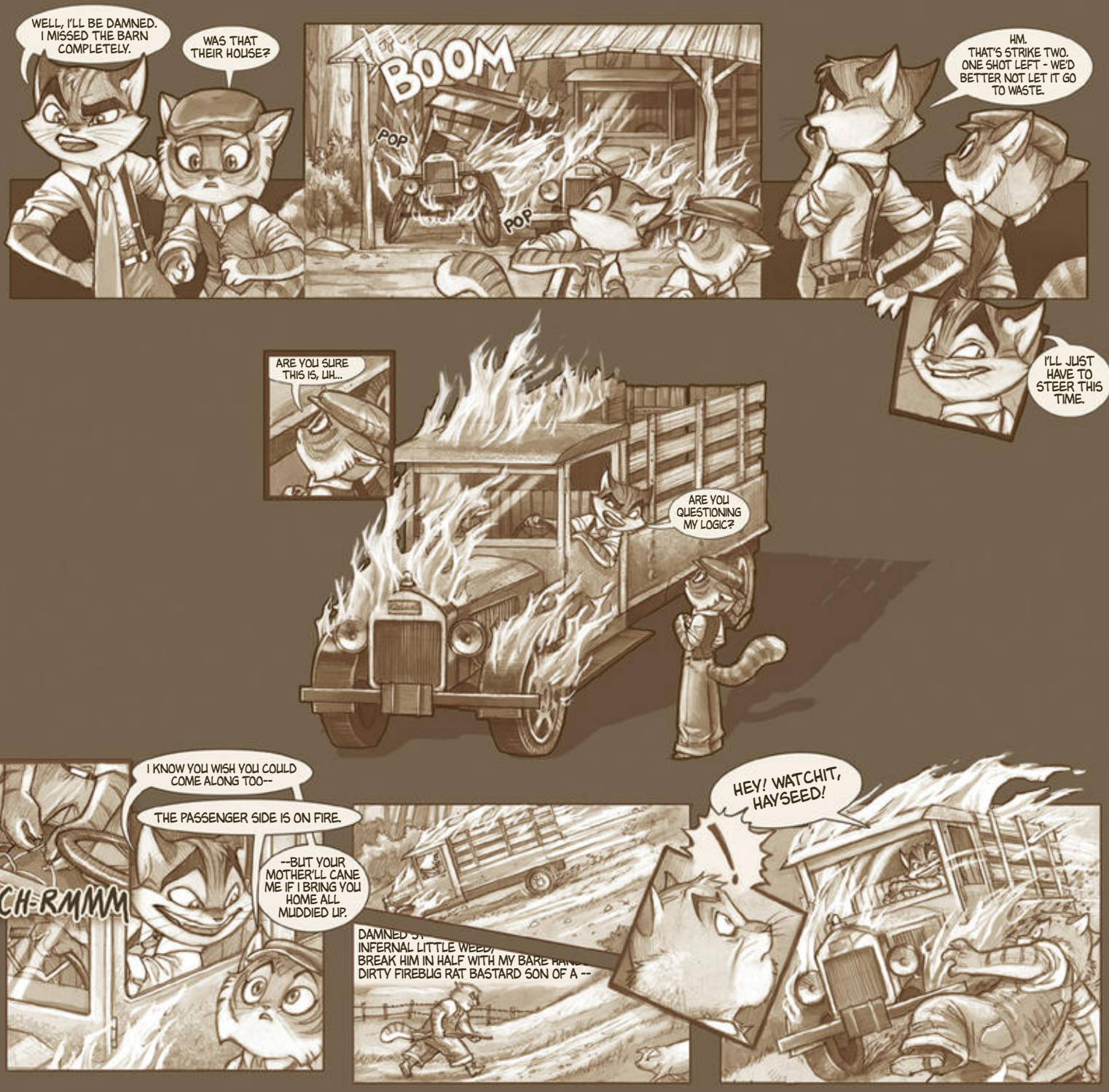
meanwhile...
OLD MAN RIVER!
THAT SEEMS FAR TOO AUSTERE A NAME FOR SOMETHING MADE OF MIRTH AND RAGE. O, ROILING RED-BLOOD RIVER VEIN, IF CHIEF AMONG YOUR TRAITS IS AGE, YOU'RE A WILY, CONVOLUTED SAGE.
IS "OLD" THE THING TO CALL WHAT RINGS THE VERNAL HEART OF WESTER-LORE: WHAT BRINGS US BRASSY MYTH-MADE KINGS...
(AND PREPONDERANCE OF BUG-TYPE THINGS)
TO CHALLENGE TITANS COME BEFORE? DEMIURGE TO TRY AT AVALON-ONCE-MORE!
AND WHAT AUGUST VITALITY IS YOUR WIDE AORTA STREAM YOU MUST HAVE HAD TO OVERSEE ALCHEMIC CHANGE OF TIMBER BEAM TO IRON, BRICK AND ENGINE STEAM!
YOUR LIMBER WHISKEY WATERS LANCE THE PRIDEFUL, SOBER SOVEREIGNTY OF FAULT-HALOED TEMPERANCE AND WILT HER SELF-SURE COUNTENANCE; YES, RIGHTEOUSNESS IS VANITY, BUT YOUR SPORT'S FOR IMPS, NOT ELDERLY.
SO IF THERE'S A NAME FOR MIGRANT MASS OF VETERAN FRIVOLITY THAT SNAKES THROUGH SEAS OF PRAIRIE GRASS AND GROVES OF SUMMER SASSAFRAS ...
A NAME THAT FLOWS AS ROGUISHLY AS GYPSY WATERS, FAST AND FREE ...
IT'S YOUR REAL NAME, MISSISSIPPI.
ENCORE?

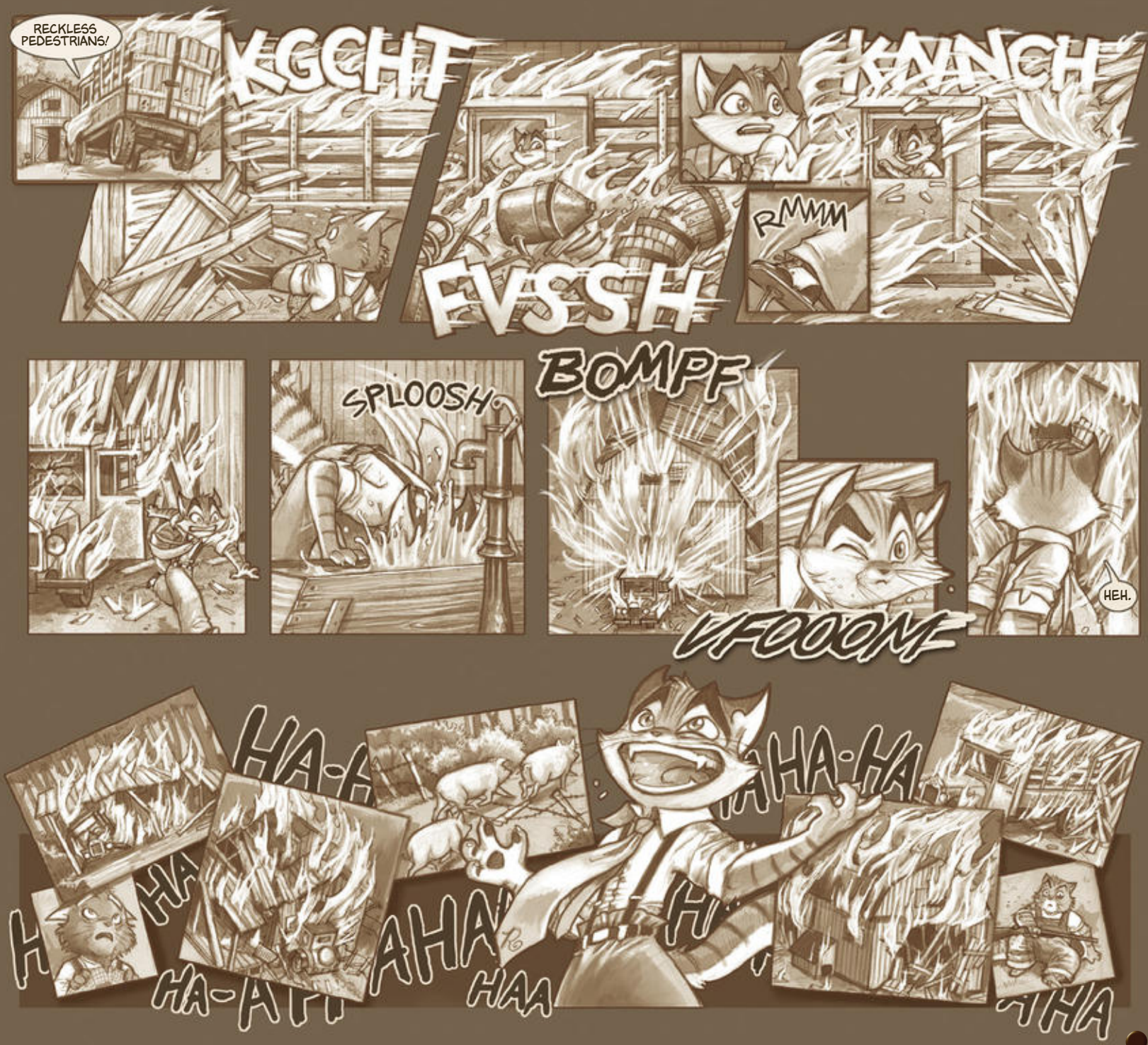

RRRK
AUNT NINA! GOOD MORNING!
ROARK.
...ALL RIGHT. WHAT IS IT Y'WANT?
WELL SINCE YOU ASKED, MY JACKET - IT COULD USE, UH, IT NEEDS--
A PROPER BURIAL. WHAT THE DEVIL DID YOU GET INTO?
JUST SOME DIRT AND MUD ... AND RAILROAD GRAVEL. UH, HAY, PIG DROOL, AND ...
I DON'T KNOW HOW SOMEONE WHO EARNS A LIVING PLAYING THE VIOLIN MANAGES TO DESTROY HIS CLOTHING ON A DAILY BASIS...
IT'S A COMPETITIVE FIELD.
AND I GET TO BE YOUR LAUNDRESS, HM?
WHY, SURE! AND I HAVE A LITTLE ERRAND TO RUN SO I'LL JUST BE--
HOLD ON! YOU'RE GOING TO DO ME A FAVOR IN RETURN.
TAKE CALVIN WITH YOU. HE COULD DO WITH THE DISTRACTION.
WHAT? SHOULDN'T THE LITTLE OFFICER IN TRAINING BE AT THE ACADEMY OR SOME-SUCH THIS TIME OF DAY?
NOT ANYMORE. THERE WAS SOME SORT OF INCIDENT.
HE WON'T TELL ME ABOUT IT - BEEN MOPIN' AROUND THE BACKYARD ALL MORNING.
HE JUST KEEPS MOWING AND MOWING...
WELL, I SUPPOSE I COULD... IF YOU INSIST.
GOOD. GET HIM SOME LUNCH TOO.
AND GET HIM BACK BEFORE DARK AND STAY OUTTA TROUBLE.
NATURALLY.

HEY THERE, SUNSHINE. HOW ARE YA?
OH, FINE. HOW ARE YOU?
WELL, BETTER THAN YOU, I RECKON. MY FACE ISN'T MELTING OFF THE WAY YOURS APPEARS TO BE.
I BET I'VE GOT JUST THE THING TO FIX YOUR FACE PROBLEM, THOUGH. WHY DON'T YOU GO GET YOURSELF WASHED UP AND MEET ME OUT FRONT?
WHAT'S IN THE --?
SWEET JUSTICE!
...AND MOTOR OIL AND GASOLINE.
SIGH
WHAT? WHAT IS IT? DON'T YOU *LIKE* JUSTICE?
...I LIKE JUSTICE.
BUT WHAT DOES THAT MATTER? I'M USELESS!
NO, NO - YOU'RE USEFUL. YOU'RE WATCHING FOR PIGS. THAT'S, UH... YOU'RE A USEFUL PIGWATCHER.
SIGH
...SO LET ME KNOW IF YOU SEE ANY PIGS.

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE SO BENT ON ENFORCING THE LAW LAWFULLY ANYWAY. YOU COULD ALWAYS TAKE UP VIGILANTISM.
IS THAT WHAT YOU DO?
SURE. I CAN'T THINK OF ANY REASON YOU COULDN'T CALL IT THAT.
WELL, THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.
CLASSY!
WHY ARE THERE BOTTLES ALL OVER THE GROUND?
BECAUSE, FRECKLE, THESE PHILISTINES DON'T KNOW HOW TO RUN A RESPECTABLE BUSINESS.
AS ROGUE UPHOLDERS OF ALL THAT IS JUST, WE'RE OBLIGED TO TAKE ACTION.
HEE HEE HEE~
OH...
WELL LOOKIT THAT! THEY'RE BUYING OFF THE RIVER AND THEY'VE GOT THEIR OWN STILL.
WHAT AVARICE!
HEY! WHAT IN THE HELL ARE YOU--?
AUGH!
AAUUGH!
FOOM
AAAAAUUUUGGHHH!

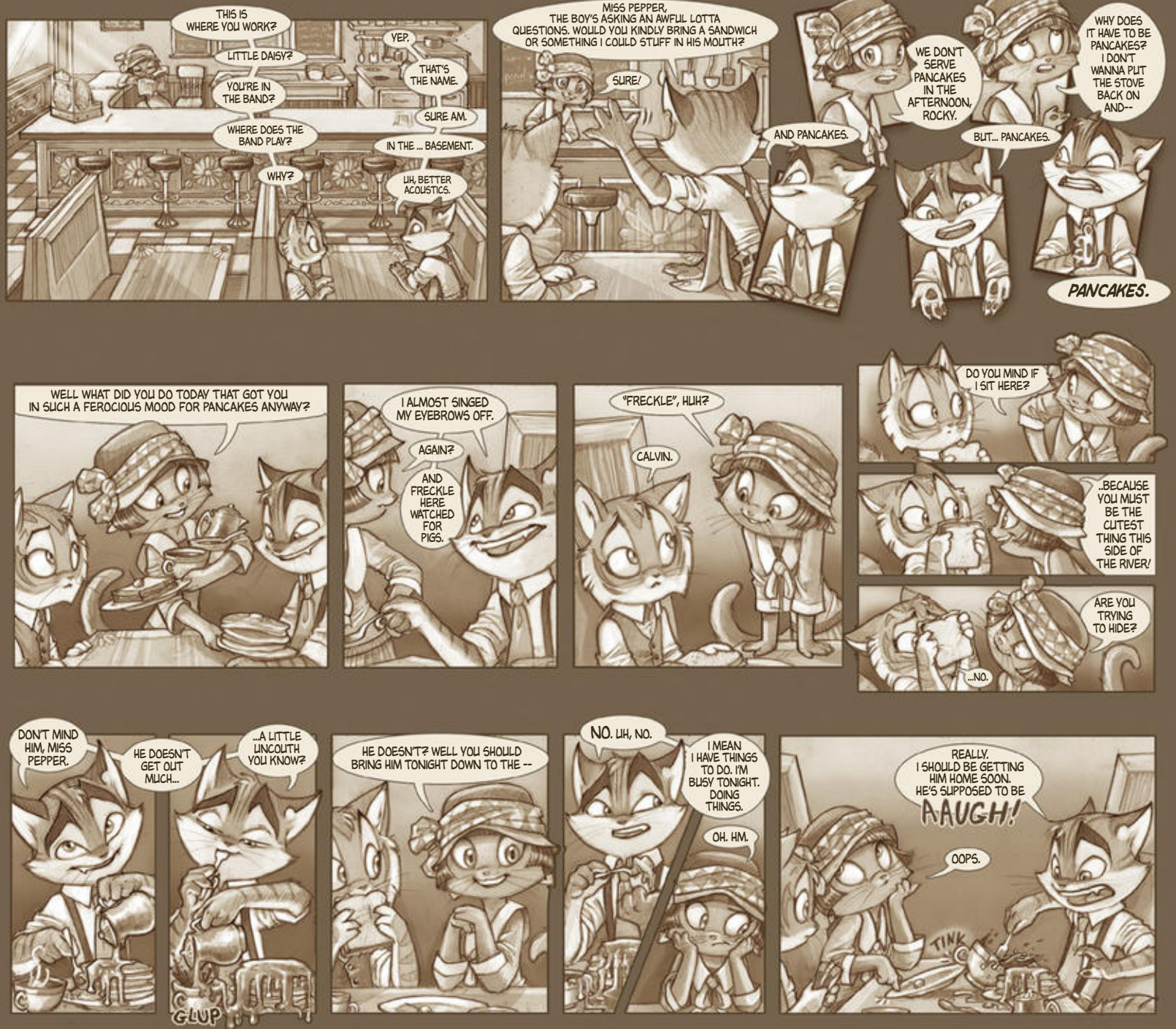
STOP! THROW IT! THROW IT!
NO, I MEAN THIS DIRECTION.
KSSH
HA!
VOOMF
PERFECT! THINGS ARE LOOKING UP.
ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO IMPROVISE, FRECKLE.
THAT'S RULE NUMBER ONE FOR JAZZ PLAYERS AND VIGILANTES ALIKE.
AND ONCE YOU'VE FINISHED GAWKING, FEEL FREE TO HELP ME PUSH!
WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES HAPPENED?
GET ME SOME MORE BUCKETS! THAT GOTDAMMED MOSQUITO SHOWED UP AND NEARLY SET THE BARN ON --
--FIRE.
KRRNCH
FORGET THE BUCKETS. GET ME A SHOTGUN.

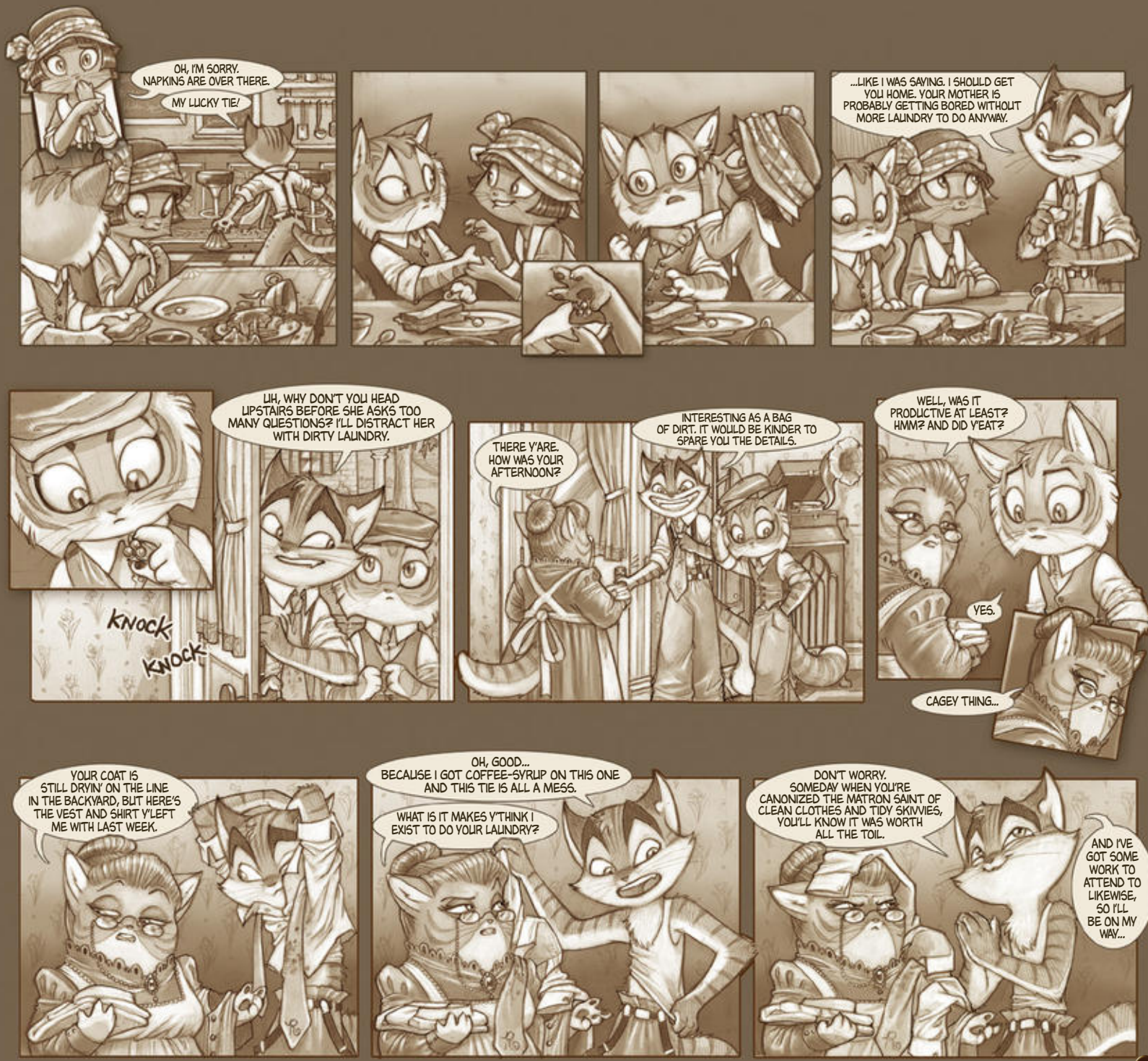

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED. I MISSED THE BARN COMPLETELY.
WAS THAT THEIR HOUSE?
BOOM
POP
POP
HM. THAT'S STRIKE TWO. ONE SHOT LEFT - WE'D BETTER NOT LET IT GO TO WASTE.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO STEER THIS TIME.
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS, UH...
ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY LOGIC?
I KNOW YOU WISH YOU COULD COME ALONG TOO--
THE PASSENGER SIDE IS ON FIRE.
--BUT YOUR MOTHER'LL CANE ME IF I BRING YOU HOME ALL MUDDIED UP.
CH-CH-RMMM
INFERNAL LITTLE WEED,
DIRTY FIREBUG RAT BASTARD SON OF A --
HEY! WATCHIT, HAYSEED!


RECKLESS PEDESTRIANS!
KGCHT
FVSSH
KVANCH
RMMM
SPLOOSH
BOMPF
VFOOOM
HEH.
HA-HA
HA-HA
HA-HA
HAA
HA-HA

RRR
RRR
ROCKY!
OH--
BKAM
BACK TO THE CAR!
I'LL FEED YOUR SORRY CARCASSES TO THE PIGS
YOU SONSABITCHES!
CRACK
TWNG
WELL SHUCKS! DO YOU THINK WE WORE OUT OUR WELCOME?

HEHEHE
HAHAA!
C'MON. LAUGH! YOU CAN'T TELL ME THAT WASN'T FUNNY.
I WAS COUNTING HOW MANY LAWS WE BROKE.
UH, WELL, I KNOW IT WASN'T LAWFUL PER SE, BUT I FIND THE SCOPE OF THE LAW CAN BE RATHER LIMITING.
WHAT'S LAWFUL DOESN'T ALWAYS COINCIDE WITH WHAT'S RIGHT, FRECKLE.
AND THAT WAS VERY RIGHT.
OH.
HEH.
HAH!
WAIT! NO! I HAVEN'T BEEN IN ANY TROUBLE SINCE -- I MEAN I'M A GOOD -- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE
A-HAHAHAHAHA
EEP
SEE THAT? YOU'RE MAKING PROGRESS ALREADY.
I'M GONNA GET YOU A SANDWICH. YOU'VE EARNED IT.
...OKAY.


THIS IS WHERE YOU WORK?
YEP.
LITTLE DAISY?
THAT'S THE NAME.
YOU'RE IN THE BAND?
SURE AM.
WHERE DOES THE BAND PLAY?
IN THE ... BASEMENT.
WHY?
UH, BETTER ACOUSTICS.
MISS PEPPER, THE BOY'S ASKING AN AWFUL LOTTA QUESTIONS. WOULD YOU KINDLY BRING A SANDWICH OR SOMETHING I COULD STUFF IN HIS MOUTH?
SURE!
AND PANCAKES.
WE DON'T SERVE PANCAKES IN THE AFTERNOON, ROCKY.
BUT... PANCAKES.
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE PANCAKES? I DON'T WANNA PUT THE STOVE BACK ON AND--
PANCAKES.
WELL WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY THAT GOT YOU IN SUCH A FEROCIOUS MOOD FOR PANCAKES ANYWAY?
I ALMOST SINGED MY EYEBROWS OFF.
AGAIN?
AND FRECKLE HERE WATCHED FOR PIGS.
"FRECKLE", HUH?
CALVIN.
DO YOU MIND IF I SIT HERE?
..BECAUSE YOU MUST BE THE CUTEST THING THIS SIDE OF THE RIVER!
ARE YOU TRYING TO HIDE?
...NO.
DON'T MIND HIM, MISS PEPPER.
HE DOESN'T GET OUT MUCH...
...A LITTLE LINCOLNTH YOU KNOW?
GLUP
HE DOESN'T? WELL YOU SHOULD BRING HIM TONIGHT DOWN TO THE --
NO. UH, NO.
I MEAN I HAVE THINGS TO DO. I'M BUSY TONIGHT. DOING THINGS.
OH. HM.
REALLY. I SHOULD BE GETTING HIM HOME SOON. HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE
AAUGH!
OOPS.
TINK


OH, I'M SORRY. NAPKINS ARE OVER THERE.
MY LUCKY TIE!
...LIKE I WAS SAYING. I SHOULD GET YOU HOME. YOUR MOTHER IS PROBABLY GETTING BORED WITHOUT MORE LAUNDRY TO DO ANYWAY.
UH, WHY DON'T YOU HEAD UPSTAIRS BEFORE SHE ASKS TOO MANY QUESTIONS? I'LL DISTRACT HER WITH DIRTY LAUNDRY.
KNOCK KNOCK
THERE Y'ARE. HOW WAS YOUR AFTERNOON?
INTERESTING AS A BAG OF DIRT. IT WOULD BE KINDER TO SPARE YOU THE DETAILS.
WELL, WAS IT PRODUCTIVE AT LEAST? HMM? AND DID Y'EAT?
YES.
CAGEY THING...
YOUR COAT IS STILL DRYIN' ON THE LINE IN THE BACKYARD, BUT HERE'S THE VEST AND SHIRT Y'LEFT ME WITH LAST WEEK.
OH, GOOD... BECAUSE I GOT COFFEE-SYRUP ON THIS ONE AND THIS TIE IS ALL A MESS.
WHAT IS IT MAKES Y'THINK I EXIST TO DO YOUR LAUNDRY?
DON'T WORRY. SOMEDAY WHEN YOU'RE CANONIZED THE MATRON SAINT OF CLEAN CLOTHES AND TIDY SKIVVIES, YOU'LL KNOW IT WAS WORTH ALL THE TOIL.
AND I'VE GOT SOME WORK TO ATTEND TO LIKEWISE, SO I'LL BE ON MY WAY...

WELL DON'T RUN OFF THIS TIME WITHOUT BENDIN' DOWN TO KISS YOUR AUNT GOODBYE FIRST.
OF COURSE.
WHOK
IF Y'DON'T WANT TO BE MARTYRED, YOU'LL FIND A PATRON SAINT O'KEEPIN' YOUR SMART MOUTH SHUT.
OKAY-LOVE-YOU-BYE!
CRACK
BOOM
VSSSHHHH

WELL, THAT WAS GREAT!
WASN'T THAT GREAT?
YES!
AHEM UH, YES, IT'S A LOVELY PIT YOU'VE FOUND HERE WICK.
INDEED. QUITE AN HONOR, BEING DRAGGED OUT INTO THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE TO WATCH YOU BLOW IT UP.
WHERE'S YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT, GENTLEMEN?
INDIANA HAS THE MARKET ON ARCHITECTURAL LIMESTONE, I KNOW, BUT MISSOURI ROCK IS PERFECT FOR AGGREGATE. AND EVER SINCE THE BOND ISSUE PASSED FOR THE CITY ...
... ALL THE NEW URBAN ROAD RESTRUCTURING AND PAVING HAS SHARPENED THE DEMAND IMMENSELY.
AND BY QUARRYING RIGHT HERE, I CAN UNDERSELL BECAUSE I'VE DODGED ALL THE MAJOR TRANSPORT COSTS.
IT'S ALL VERY PROMISING, DON'T YOU THINK?
DOES HE EVER STOP TALKING ABOUT ROCKS?
SOMETIMES HE TALKS ABOUT CEMENT.
WHILE IT'S BEEN GREAT FUN INDULGING IN YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR GRAVEL, WICK, I SEEM TO RECALL YOU *PROMISING* US DINNER.
OH...YES. DINNER AT THE MAYFAIR ROOM AND, UHM, LATE NIGHT REFRESHMENTS FOR THE NIGHT-OWLS AMONG US.
REFRESHMENTS? YOU KNOW OF A DECENT PLACE? LAST I HEARD, THE VALERIAN HAD BEEN RAIDED.
MARIGOLD IS THE ONLY WORTHWHILE VENUE AROUND THESE DAYS, ANYWAY.
SORRY, NOTHING SO SUFFOCATINGLY RITZY AS THAT, CHURCH. JUST AN OLD FAVORITE OF MINE.
WE'VE HAD A SPECIAL INVITATION FROM THE LADY OF THE HOUSE.

Elsewhere
...WHERE YOU BEEN ALL DAY, EMERY?
I WAS PLAYIN' CHECKERS AND SHOOTIN' AT SQUIRRELS WITH BENJY JESSUP.
HAD FUN, DID YOU?
...UH-HUH. BUT WHAT HA--
KLUNK
YOU'RE USELESS AS A ONE-LEGGED MULE AROUND HERE
SAVE YER FIGHT.
PLONK
I SAID SAVE IT!
YOU STUPID ADDLEPATED LOUT! DIDN'T YOU SMELL THE SMOKE?
WHAT IN THE HELL FOR, AVRIL? WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? WE GOT NOTHIN' LEFT IN THE WORLD BUT THESE COUPLA BUCKETS... AND NOW THIS ONE'S ALL DENTED.
THAT AIN'T TRUE. I BEEN THINKIN' WE GOT SOME PEOPLE OWE US A FAVOR OR TWO.
THEY WAS HERE AGAIN JUST TH' OTHER NIGHT...

Just the Other Night

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU WERE JUST KIDDING?
HA HA HA HA
DE HATCHET, CHER. IT WAS A JOKE.
WE DIDN' TINK YOU WAS REALLY GONE TO USE IT.
...TILL YOU STRIPPED DOWN TO YOU DRAWZ.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP ME?
MAIS, YOU LOOKED PRETTY FIXED ON FINISH'N WHAT YOU STARTED.
I'M NOT SURE I SEE THE HUMOR IN MAKING AN UNNECESSARY MESS OF OUR WORK.
THAT ASIDE. THIS IS A RATHER HIGH-PROFILE MESS. WE CAN'T SIMPLY LEAVE IT HERE.
YOU MUST HAVE SOME PROTOCOL FOR CLEANING UP.
PIG FARM UP DE ROAD.
NO MORE JOKES.
ALORS PAS, PEEKON. IT'S TRUE. DEM PIGS EAT ANYTING.

EVENIN'
HEY, SALEAU.
YOU PIGS ARE HUNGRY TONIGHT?

'CAUSE OUR NEW FREN HAD HISSELF A GRAN TIME PLAYIN' LAK A BUTCHER.
... BUT NOW HE GOT NO LAG ROOM BAG DARE.

OH, WELL THAT AIN'T NO PROBLEM.
THEM PIGS'LL EAT ANYTHIN'

HEAR DAT?
ANYTING.
WE TOL' YOU.

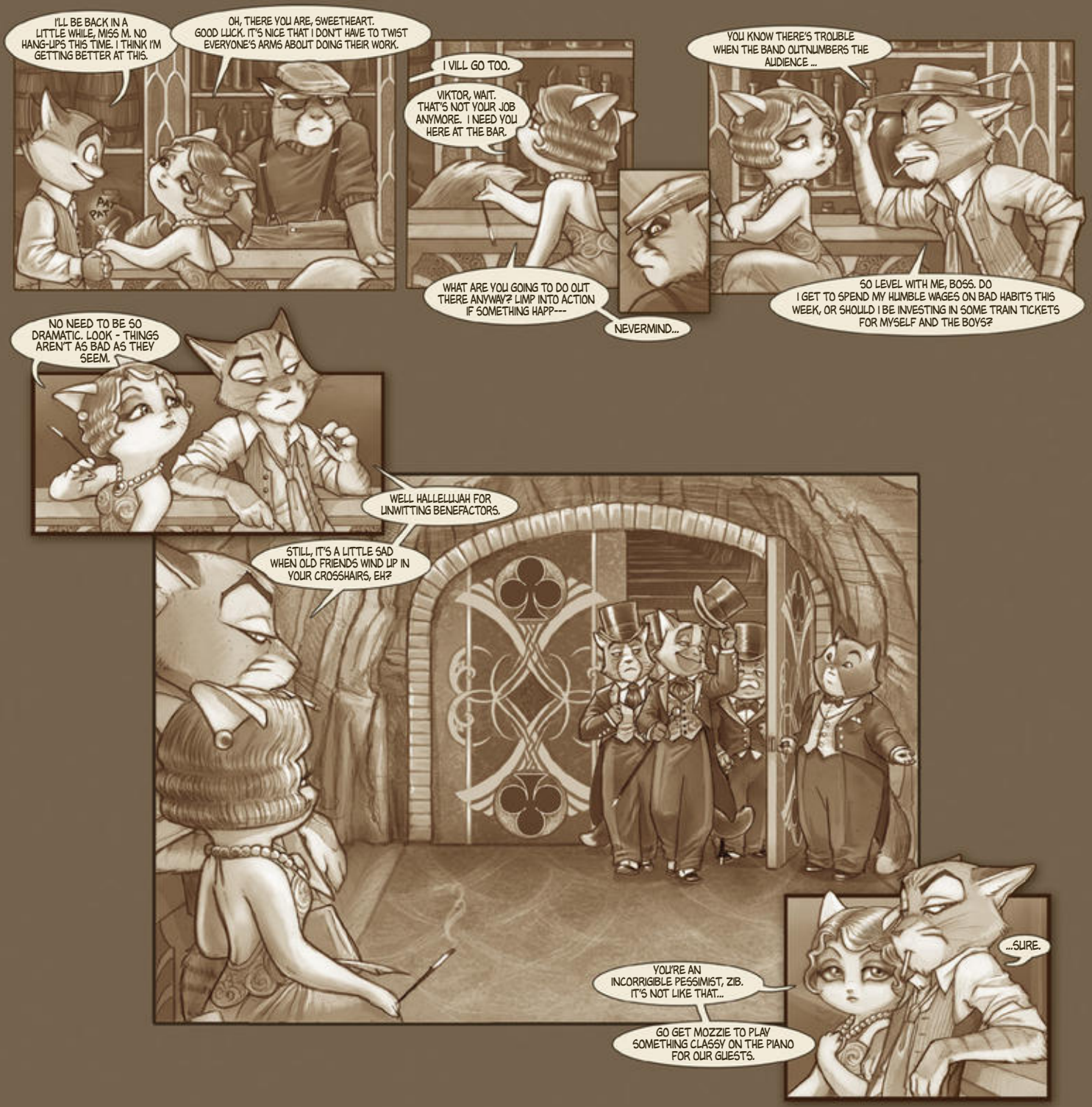
CHARMING. I'LL WAIT IN THE CAR.

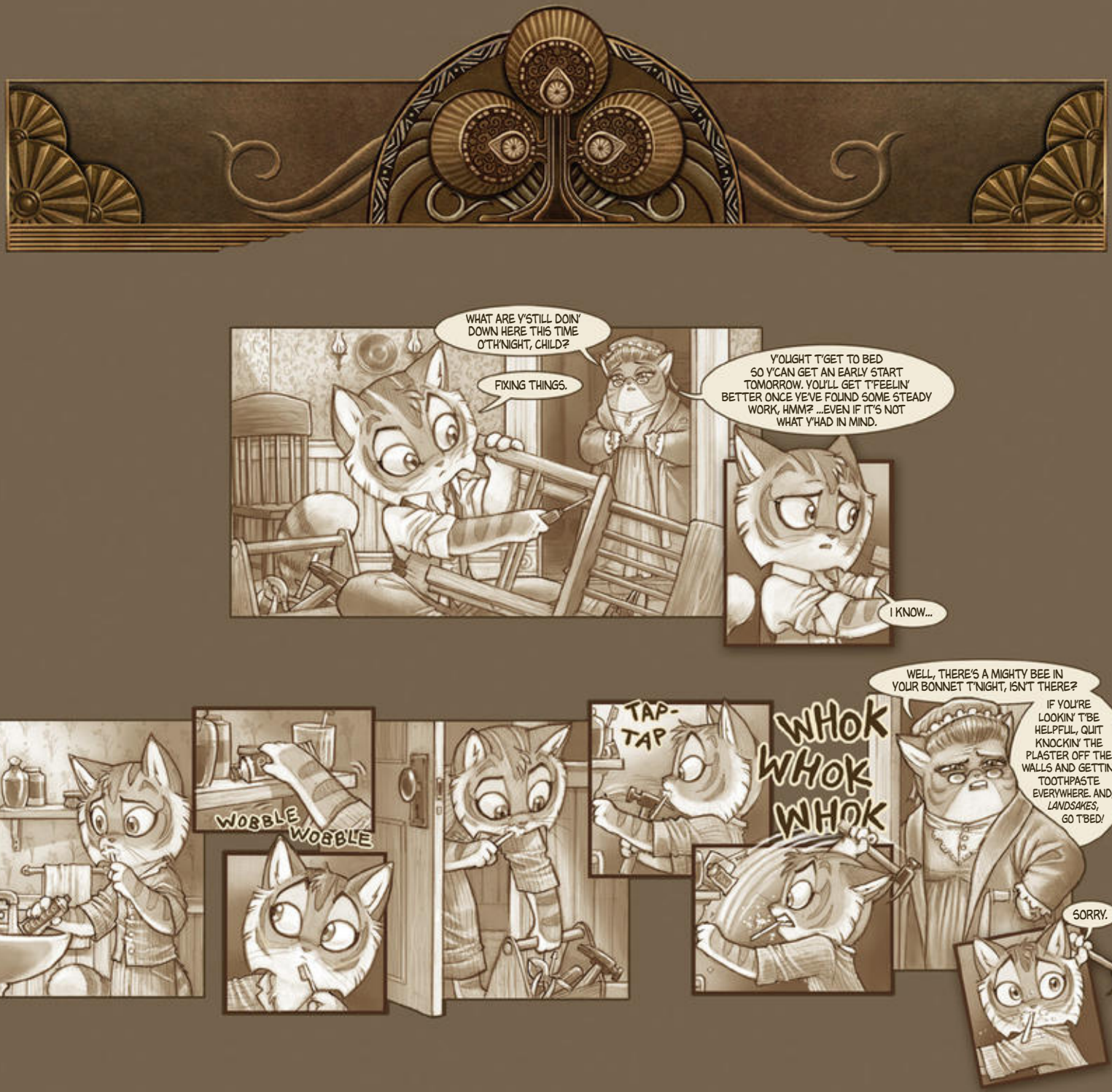
AND DON'T EXAGGERATE, NICO. IT WAS NOTHING SO INDULGENT AS A GRAND TIME.
IT'S MERELY WORK ETHIC.

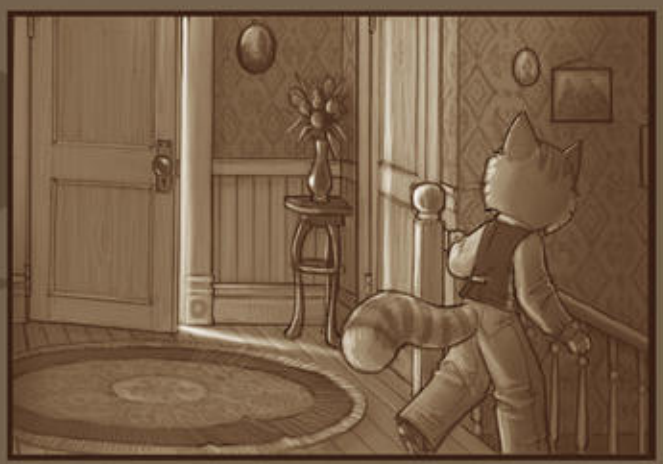
EMERY, YOU GO FETCH BENJY JESSUP AND HIS TRUCK. WE'RE GONNA TAKE A RIDE DOWNTOWN.

313
OH! YOU LOOK NICE TONIGHT, MISS M.
THANK YOU, SWEETIE. HAND ME THAT BUTTERKNIFE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL DOLLED UP AND WAITING AROUND UPSTAIRS?
YOU HAVEN'T LURED ANOTHER POOR BOY INTO MEETING YOU HERE, HAVE YOU?
UH, NO - OF COURSE NOT, MISS M. I'M JUST... DOING SOME READING FOR CLASS BEFORE I HEAD DOWN.
CLICK
WHAT A STUDIOUS THING YOU ARE. WHICH PROFESSOR ASSIGNS YOU READING FROM MCCLURE'S, HONEY?
HOW'S THE CROWD TONIGHT, HORATIO? IS IT A CROWD TONIGHT?
...MAYBE MORE OF A SMATTERING.
SIGH
SO TELL ME, VINEGAR TOM, WHERE'S YOUR TUXEDO?
I THINK YOU'D LOOK RATHER SHARP IN IT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY. IT'S POSSIBLE WE'D SEE SOME BUSINESS AT THE BAR TONIGHT IF YOU LOOKED MORE LIKE THE BARTENDER...
... AND LESS LIKE THE ANGRY MAN LOOMING IN FRONT OF THE LIQUOR.
NO DICE, HUH?
WELL, WHAT ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE WE WENT TO HAVING YOU FITTED? THAT TAILOR WE COERCED INTO WORKING FOR CHEAP - WE PRACTICALLY KIDNAPPED HIM AND --
VHAT?
OH, WELL, I GUESS I CAN'T EXPECT YOU'D REMEMBER THAT. WE HAD TO GET YOU REMARKABLY DRUNK JUST TO TAKE YOUR MEASUREMENTS.

REALLY, WHAT'S SO AWFUL ABOUT WEARING A TUX? HORATIO'S WEARING HIS - LOOK HOW DAPPER.
I LIKE MY TUX. IF YOU GAVE IT A CHANCE, I THINK MAYBE YOU'D ENJOY WEARING YOUR
I THINK MAYBE I'D ENJOY VEARING IT TO YOUR FUNERAL.
OKAY? SEE? I MAKE A COMPROMISE.
THAT WASN'T A COMPROMISE, VIKTOR. THAT WAS A THREAT. YOU ALWAYS GET THOSE CONFUSED.
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO POINT ARGUING WITH YOU IF WE HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING WORTH SERVING ANYWAY. WHERE'S ROCKY?
ZIB!
ZIB!
HEY, ZIB!
HEY, WHAT?
WHAT TIME IS IT?? I THINK I HAFTA LEAVE!
CRIMINY. SETTLE DOWN. WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GET YOURSELF A WATCH?
IT'S GETTING CLOSE TO THE WITCHING HOUR, KIDDO...
BUT BEFORE YOU HIGHTAIL IT OUT OF HERE, HUMOR ME -
JUST WHAT MADE A LAD LIKE YOU VOLUNTEER TO GO RUNNING HOOCH AROUND IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT?
WELL, I...
OOPS, DID YOU SEE THAT? ONE OF MY STRINGS IS BROKEN.
...
ALRIGHT. I'M GLAD WE SETTLED THAT.
GO ON. GET OUTTA HERE. MOONLIGHTER.


I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE, MISS M. NO HANG-UPS THIS TIME. I THINK I'M GETTING BETTER AT THIS.
OH, THERE YOU ARE, SWEETHEART. GOOD LUCK. IT'S NICE THAT I DON'T HAVE TO TWIST EVERYONE'S ARMS ABOUT DOING THEIR WORK.
PAT PAT
I VILL GO TOO.
VIKTOR, WAIT. THAT'S NOT YOUR JOB ANYMORE. I NEED YOU HERE AT THE BAR.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO OUT THERE ANYWAY? LIMP INTO ACTION IF SOMETHING HAPP---
NEVERMIND...
YOU KNOW THERE'S TROUBLE WHEN THE BAND OUTNUMBERS THE AUDIENCE ...
SO LEVEL WITH ME, BOSS. DO I GET TO SPEND MY HUMBLE WAGES ON BAD HABITS THIS WEEK, OR SHOULD I BE INVESTING IN SOME TRAIN TICKETS FOR MYSELF AND THE BOYS?
NO NEED TO BE SO DRAMATIC. LOOK - THINGS AREN'T AS BAD AS THEY SEEM.
WELL HALLELUJAH FOR UNWITTING BENEFACTORS.
STILL, IT'S A LITTLE SAD WHEN OLD FRIENDS WIND UP IN YOUR CROSSHAIRS, EH?
...SURE.
YOU'RE AN INCORRIGIBLE PESSIMIST, ZIB. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...
GO GET MOZZIE TO PLAY SOMETHING CLASSY ON THE PIANO FOR OUR GUESTS.


WHAT ARE Y'STILL DOIN' DOWN HERE THIS TIME O'TH'NIGHT, CHILD?
FIXING THINGS.
Y'OUGHT T'GET TO BED SO Y'CAN GET AN EARLY START TOMORROW. YOU'LL GET T'FEELIN' BETTER ONCE YE'VE FOUND SOME STEADY WORK, HMM? ...EVEN IF IT'S NOT WHAT Y'HAD IN MIND.
I KNOW...
WOBBLE WOBBLE
TAP-TAP
WHOK WHOK WHOK
WELL, THERE'S A MIGHTY BEE IN YOUR BONNET T'NIGHT, ISN'T THERE?
IF YOU'RE LOOKIN' T'BE HELPFUL, QUIT KNOCKIN' THE PLASTER OFF THE WALLS AND GETTIN' TOOTHPASTE EVERYWHERE. AND, *LANDSAKES*, GO T'BED!
SORRY.



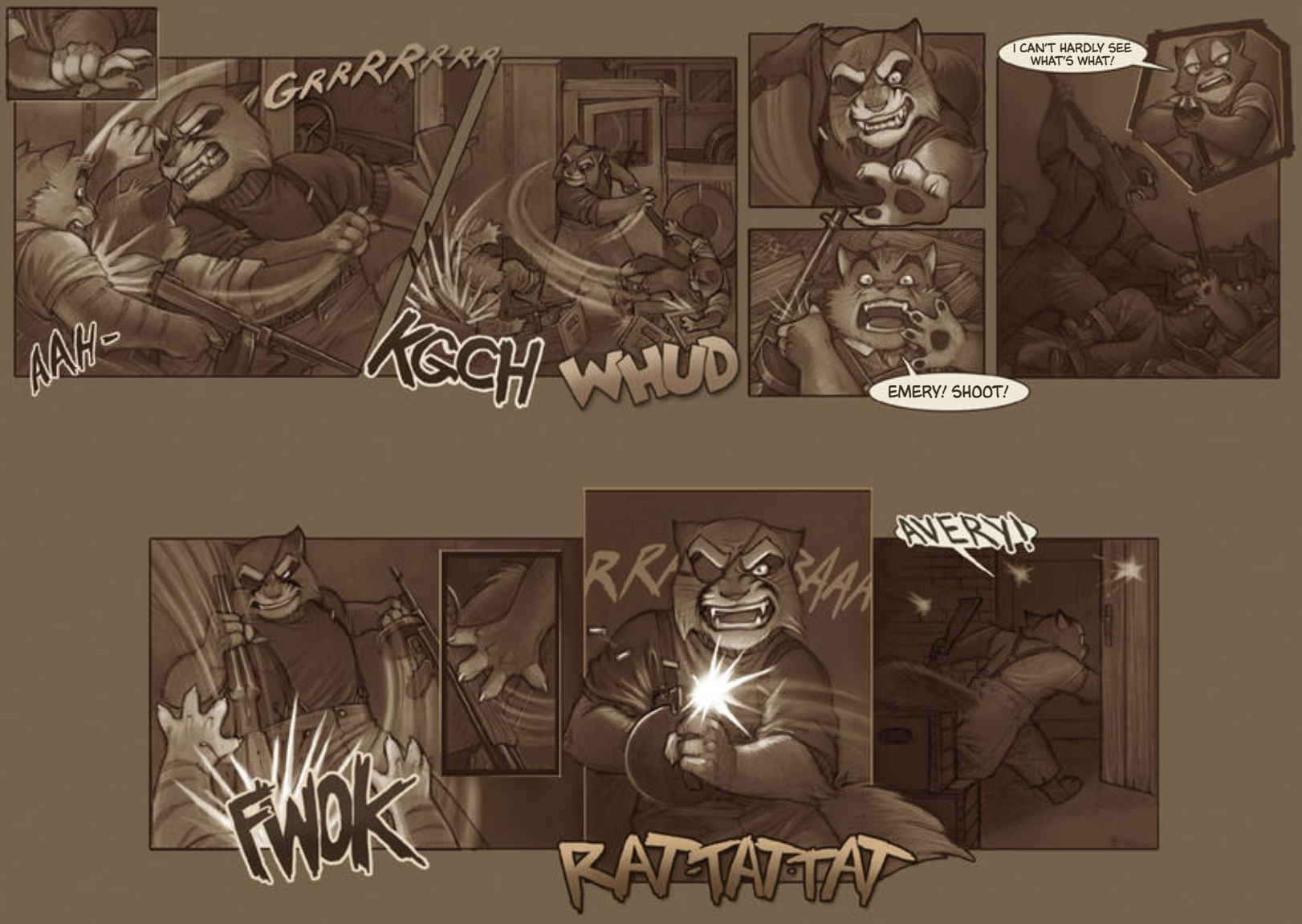
HOTEL MARIBEL
"...WELL, DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE?" THE JUDGE ASKS. CUDDY WOBBLES AND SAYS NOTHING.
GETTING IMPATIENT, THE JUDGE SHOUTS "FOR DRINKING WHISKEY!"
SO CUDDY STARES AT HIM, IN DISBELIEF. FINALLY HE SAYS, "WELL, OKAY. LET'S GET STARTED."
HAH!
WE CAN TELL YOU'VE GOT A LOSING HAND WHEN YOU START TELLING STORIES...
IT WAS A JOKE, NOT A STORY. I'M TRYING TO CHEER MYSELF UP.
IT'S ONLY CALLED A JOKE IF IT'S FUNNY.
IF I MAY INTRUDE, WHAT'S *THEIR* STORY?
WHO? THE SAVOYS? WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST?
IF I'M TO BE WORKING WITH THEM LONG-TERM, PERHAPS IT WOULD BEHOOVE ME TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.
I'D ASK THEM MYSELF, BUT I CAN SCARCELY DECIPHER WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
HE-HE, WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE WE DREDGED THEM UP OUT OF THE BAYOUS...
THEY'D BEEN PROWLING AROUND, HIJACKING CONSIGNMENTS COMING UPRIVER FROM NEW ORLEANS.
MORE THAN ONCE THEY SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE, SCARED THE HOLY BEJEEZUS OUT OF OUR BOYS AND MADE OFF WITH OUR CARGO.
FRUSTRATING AS ALL HELL, BUT DAMN IF THEY WEREN'T GOOD AT IT...
WELL, AS IT TURNED OUT, THEY WERE WORKING FOR SOME NO-NAME BACKWOODS OPERATION. SO RATHER THAN RISK GETTING A BUNCH OF PEOPLE KILLED TRYING TO CHASE THEM DOWN, WE SET ABOUT ACQUIRING THEM FOR OURSELVES.
SINCE THEN, THEY'VE BEEN PUTTING THEIR TRICKS TO USE SWEEPING THE PATHS CLEAR FOR OUR RUNNERS...
...AND THEY'VE MADE PRETTY EFFICIENT WORK OF IT.
A LITTLE CUTTHROAT PERHAPS, BUT THERE AREN'T MANY PARTIES EAGER TO CONTEND WITH US ANYMORE FOR THE BETTER SPIRITS FLOWING INTO THIS PLACE.
IT'S BECOME DIFFICULT TO KEEP THEM BUSY SOME NIGHTS, IN FACT, THAT ALLOWS US TO FOCUS SOME ATTENTION ON OTHER VENTURES.
THAT, MY SWARTHY FRIEND, IS WHY THEY'RE DOUBLING AS YOUR ACCOMPANIMENT LATELY.

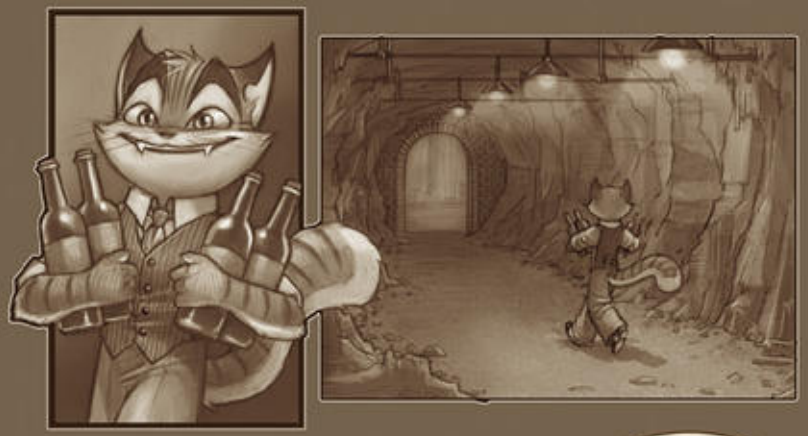
EXCUSE ME. THOSE RUBES ARE STILL LINGERING ABOUT THE LOBBY, MR. SWEET. I FIGURED THEY'D HAVE GIVEN UP BY NOW, BUT THEY'RE DEMANDING TO SEE YOU BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
WHY'S THAT? DO BUMPKINS TURN INTO PUMPKINS AFTER MIDNIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT THEY'RE STARTING TO GET ROWDY. YOU WANT US TO TOSS 'EM OUT?
NAH. MY FRIENDS HAVE ROBBED ME OF ALL MY CHIPS ANYHOW. IF IT'LL PREVENT A RUMPUS, I'LL MEET... WHAT'S-HIS-FACE, THE ANGRY ONE, IN MY OFFICE.
...AND MY SHADOW IS TWO STEPS AHEAD OF ME.
SINCE WE'RE ON THE TOPIC OF MY COHORTS. I WANTED TO DISCUSS OUR AGENDA. I PREFER KNOWING IN ADVANCE WHAT'S NEXT.
I DON'T KNOW ANY SOONER THAN YOU DO. 'NIGHT MANAGER' MEANS LITTLE MORE THAN 'MESSENGER' IN THIS CASE, I'M AFRAID.
ARE WE AT LEAST GOING IN A PARTICULAR ORDER?
I KNOW YOU LIKE ORDER, BUT THE ORDER HERE IS OF A SOMEWHAT BUREAUCRATIC NATURE. AN UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECT TO THE GROWTH AND SUCCESS OF ANY ESTABLISH-MENT, NO?
...AND WHILE WE WAS PUTTIN' THAT FIRE OUT, THEY SET THE CARS ON FIRE AND ONNA THEM BLEW UP THEN THE OTHER TORE THE FENCE UP, AND CRASHED THROUGH THE HOUSE WHILE IT WAS STILL BURN'N, SO THE WHOLE HOUSE BURNT UP AND COLLAPSED AND
THEY NEARLY RUNNED ME DOWN WITH MY OWN FLAMIN TRUCK AND HIT THE BARN WITH IT AND DROVE THROUGH THE STILL THEN THE BARN CAUGHT ON FIRE AND THEN IT EXPLODED AND THE PIGS WENT AN' RUNNED OFF AND
NUT ZIPPER?
NO, THANK YOU.
WELL, UH, MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES REGARDING THE LOSS OF YOUR PIGS AND TRUCKS AND WHATNOT... BUT I DON'T RECALL SETTLING YOUR MOONSHINER DISPUTES EVER BEING PART OF OUR LITTLE ARRANGEMENT.
IT DON'T MATTER. YOU OWE US! YOU BEEN USIN' OUR LIVESTOCK AND HAVEN'T PAID A LICK FOR IT YET.
MATTER-A-FACT, THAT ONE NEXT TO YOU THERE WAS BY JUST THE OTHER NIGHT IN THE CAR WITH THEM FELLAS ALL HATCHETED UP AND...
HATCHETED UP?
HA!
YOU FELL FOR THE HATCHET JOKE? WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? NO ONE FALLS FOR THAT.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS SOME SORT OF TRADITION AROUND HERE...
TELL ME, DID YOU ARRANGE THE PIECES IN, UH, ALPHABETICAL ORDER?
...WELL, "A" IS FOR AMYGDALA, MR. SWEET.
IT'S A SHAME MR. HELLER, MISSED HIS CALLING ON THE VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT, ISN'T IT?
HE HAS OTHER TALENTS, THOUGH, WHICH HE'S USED RECENTLY TO PROCURE SOME WARES FOR US IN GOOD FAITH. WE HAVE A SURPLUS, SO ... PERHAPS WE CAN BE OF SOME VERY INDIRECT ASSISTANCE.

WELL, IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, CAPTAIN KEHOE...
HONEST TO GOODNESS - YOU'RE A REAL PEACH.
YOU SEEM A LITTLE SURPRISED TO SEE ME AGAIN, ACTUALLY...
... BUT YOU'LL BE SEEING PLENTY MORE. I'M AFRAID YOUR OTHER CLIENTELE HAVE GONE OUT OF BUSINESS... FORCIBLY... IN A BLAZE OF GLORY.
BUT THAT'S JUST HOW A, UH, FREE BLACK MARKET WORKS, ISN'T IT?
BESIDES, WHAT SORT OF HERETIC WOULD I BE TO LET LADY DIONYSUS DOWN?
FOR SHE KEEPS THE CONTUMACIOUS KEY, TO OUR SANCTUARY UNDERGROUND AND RETAINS THE SHADY SANCTITY OF THE ROYAL RYE AND BARLEY CROWN.
YET FURTHER, SHE'S COMMENSURATE WITH HER DISTILLER'S CHARITY. HER VERY AURA IS AN OPIATE - THE ELECTRIC-FEVER REMEDY. TO BE MEADOWSWEET INEBRIATE, IS TO BREATHE HER SMOKE FELICITY.
YOU DRIVE FROM INSIDE THE TRUCK.
STILL I COULD OTHERWISE PROSELYTIZE ABOUT THE GONG-SOUND OF HER LOOK, ABOUT THE MOONSHINE-POTENT SIGHS, AND THE WARM NARCOTIC OF
HGKK
WE KNAVES PARTAKE KNAVE-ERRANT TRIALS TO BRING HER BOTTLED OFFERINGS IT'S OUR PRIVILEGE GOING DRASTIC MILES TO AID IN HER ADMINISTRINGS OF MERCY METERED IN TUMBLER-VIALS.
RIGHT, SORRY. MISS M.'S DONE A LOT FOR ME, YOU KNOW? I JUST GET A LITTLE, UH, SENTIMENTAL, WITH HER BEING IN A VULNERABLE SPOT THESE DAYS...
VULNERABLE AS LIKE BEAR TRAP.
LIKE A BEAR TRAP?
YA.
LIKE A BEAR TRAP, IN A BOX FULL AF BUNNIES.
IN A BUNNY-BOX??
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, BUT THAT'S PRETTY GOOD ALLITERATION.
WATCH WERE YOU ARE GOING.
I BET YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A POET.

I'LL BE BACK WITH SOME INDIVIDUALS OF LESS NOODLY CONSTITUTION TO HELP CARRY EVERYTHING DOWNSTAIRS.
RRRMMM
THUD
CLICK
THE LIGHTS JUST WENT OUT, YOU THINK THEY SEEN US COMIN'?
I DON'T CARE.

JUST HOW ARE WE GONNA GET IN --
RT-TAT-TATAT-TAT-TAT
KTCH
G-TINK
CHNKG
PNG
KNCH
WHDD
...NOW WHAT?
I CAN'T SEE MY HAND IN FRONT OF MY OWN FACE...
SOMEONE LOOK FOR THE DAMNED LIGHT SWITCH.
I THINK I FOUND IT OVER HERE.
AUGH!
BAM
AAUGH!
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!
RATATATATA
TING
SKSH
SSHNK
K-THNK
THUP
PNG
PING - PING
PNK
KSSH
WHAT WAS THAT??
BRRRT
QUIT WASTIN' ROUNDS SHOOTIN' IN THE DARK!
WELL, WE'RE NOT GONNA ACCOMPLISH NOTHIN' STANDIN' HERE LIKE A BUNCHA DAZED TURKEYS.
SHHH!
EVERYONE KEEP MOVIN' - THEY'RE HIDIN' 'CAUSE WE GOT 'EM OUT GUNNED.
CLICK
THERE!
!
RT-TATATAT-TAT
KSSH
THNK
THNK
THUNGK
COULDN'T'VE MISSED HIM. SUCCESS AND GLORY ARE IN THE ADVAN--
WHAM


GRRRRRRR
AAH-
KGCH
WHUD
I CAN'T HARDLY SEE WHAT'S WHAT!
EMERY! SHOOT!
AVERY!
FWOK
RAT-TAT-TAT



LITTLE WONDER WICK LIKES THIS PLACE - IT'S MADE OF ROCK.

WELL, THAT LENDS IT A SORT OF NOVELTY APPEAL.

MORE THAN NOVELTY - I THINK IT HAS A CERTAIN GRANDEUR TO IT.

YOU SHOULD SEE IT WHEN THERE'S A CROWD. IT RESO-NATES LIKE A CATHEDRAL.

I HATE TO SEEM RUDE, MADAM, BUT YOU'VE BEEN SOUNDING LIKE YOU'RE SELLING SOMETHING.

I'M NOT SOLICITING, MR. CHURCH. IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN, THINK OF THIS MORE AS ... AN OVERTURE.

... TO EVENTUAL SOLICITATION?

TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FRIENDSHIPS.

I'M TALKING ABOUT INVESTMENT, OF COURSE, MR. CHURCH.

IN WHAT? CRIMINAL REPUTATIONS?

WELL, UNDENIABLY, IT TAKES SOME GUMPTION TO INVOLVE YOURSELF IN BUSINESS LIKE THIS, BUT RISK AND REWARD GO HAND IN HAND, DON'T THEY?

ALMOST AS MUCH AS RISK AND DISASTER.

DON'T LET CHURCH'S BULLYING GET TO YOU. HE'LL COZY UP IF YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE RETURNS.

I'VE DEALT WITH WORSE, REALLY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING THEM ALONG.

MY PLEA

AAUGH!!

HELLO WICK. SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

HOWAREYA?

WHAT'S THE RUMPUS?

HEH...GOOD, THANKS. GREAT.

WHAT'S THE WHAT?

OH...WICK YOU REMEMBER ROCKY, DON'T YOU? FROM THE BAND?

YES, UH, HARD TO FORGET A FACE LIKE ...THAT.

FORGIVE ME - MY FRENCH IS TERRIBLE, BUT I BELIEVE WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS CALLED THE *CAMBOUIS BRUN REPUGNANT*.

AND FOR THOSE WITH A MORE DELICATE PALATE, *L'EAU RANCE DE RAT*.

FROM THE BAND, YES, BUT TONIGHT I AM HERE TO RECTIFY THIS LAMENTABLE LACK OF LIBATION, LADYSHIP.

WE HAVE SOME SPECIAL SELECTIONS FOR YOU TODAY, SIRS.

THAT IS, THE WHISKEY OR THE WHISKEY?
EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, GENTLEMEN.
I GOT IT. I DID GOOD, YEAH?
YOU DID GOOD.
TRY NOT TO HORRIFY THE GUESTS, HONEY.
MISSISSIPPI SPECIAL, MA'AM.
IS THAT WHAT KEHOE CALLS IT? LET'S HOPE THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT TASTES LIKE MISSISSIPPI WATER.
I HOPE NOT. THERE'S A LOT OF IT. VIKTOR COULD USE SOME HELP GETTING IT DOWNSTAIRS, IN FACT.
WELL, THIS'LL EITHER LOOSEN THEM UP OR KILL THEM. WORST CASE, I'LL JUST HAVE TO RUMMAGE THROUGH THEIR POCKETS.
YOU CAN GET THE REST OF THE BAND TO HELP VIKTOR UNLOAD.
WHAT? BUT WE COULD HURT OURSELVES LIFTING HEAVY THINGS...
...AND THEN WE'D BE USELESS.
INDEED. THESE ARMS WEREN'T DESIGNED FOR MANUAL LABOR. I'M AFRAID I'M RELEGATED TO THE ARTS.
BUT YOU'RE LESS LIKE SPAGHETTI. BESIDES, SHOULDN'T WE REVEL IN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO *SUFFER* FOR OUR *ART*?
ZIB, GO SUFFER FOR YOUR ART.
CHNG
YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR SUFFERING IS SOMEWHAT UNSETTLING.
IN FACT, HUH, THE SAME COULD BE SAID OF YOUR ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS NEW PASTIME OF YOURS. JUST DON'T GET TOO CARRIED AWAY.
SCREWY. I MEAN DON'T DO ANYTHING SCREWY.
YOU KNOW - NUTTY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CARRIED AWAY"?
DEFINE "SCREWY".
NUTTY?
I WISH I COULD SAY THIS HAS BEEN A REASSURING CONVERSATION.

AVERY!
SHHH! WHISPER.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S AVRIL?
I DON' KNOW. I COULDN'T SEE. ALL I KNOW IS THAT WEREN'T NO MOSQUITO OVER TH--
HELP HAS ARRIVED!
HURRAY.
!
FWUD
AUGH!
BAM
CHAK
ZIB!
ZIB, WAIT!
I THINK THEY JUST SHOT VIK?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE GOING THIS DIRECTION!
COUGH CELLAR DOOR!
HEHE

HI!
OH.
UM
AHEM
HI.
...SO, ARE YOU PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED SITTING IN THAT OLD FLIVVER AND LOOKING CONTEMPLATIVE THIS EVENING?
OR WERE YOU MAYBE PLANNING ON COMING IN?
YOU FOUND ANOTHER ONE, ALREADY MISS PEPPER?
JUST OPEN THE DOOR, HORATIO...IF YOU WOULD BE SO KIND.
WHAT IS THIS?
IS THAT A BAR?
THIS IS SOME KIND OF SALOON?
YOU KNOW THE BREAKAWAY RIGHT?
AND THE CHARLESTON?
RIGHT STEP, LEFT TOE, LEFT STEP BACK, RIGHT TOE AND --
YOU MEAN DANCE?

THAT'S THE NEW ONE THEY'RE DOING IN NEW YORK.
COME ON. THE DANCE FLOOR IS THIS WAY.
HOW ABOUT THE LINDY HOP?
I KNOW.
HEY, WHERE'S THE BAND?
OOP.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DON'T PUSH!
WATCH OUT, MISS PEPPER!
FRECKLE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
...THE LINDY HOP?
DOES YOUR MOTHER KNOW YOU'RE HERE?
I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF INVITING HIM SINCE YOU WOULDN'T...AND SINCE MY LAST DANCE PARTNER BROKE HIS ARMS AND LEGS IN SOME HORRID ACCIDENT
NO. I COULDN'T SLEEP. I FIGURED YOU'D BE HERE PLAYING THE VIOLIN SO I ...
...BUT THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF GIN JOINT. I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE A VIGILANTE AND YOU WERE UPHOLDING JUST...E.
HA! YEAH, THE VIOLIN VIGILANTE, HUH?
THAT'S OUR ROCKY ALL RIGHT!
DID HE TELL YOU HE WAS THE SHEIK OF ARABY TOO?
NO.
VIGILANTE? I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING THAT EXACTLY BUT, UH ...
...PERHAPS I USED THE TERM FOR IRONIC EFFECT, OR MAYBE I WAS SPEAKING IN METAPHOR. WHO CAN SAY?
THAT'S THE THING ABOUT WORDS, THEY'RE WISHY-WASHY.
MAYBE WE'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK WITH INTERPRETIVE PANTOMIME.
FRANTIC ARM GESTURES ARE FOR EMPHASIS.
NO? NOT GETTING IT? GIVE UP?
IT MEANS PIG FARMERS ARE COMING TO SHOOT MY FACE OFF.
LET'S STEP OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE, SHALL WE?
SO YOU'RE NOT A VIGILANTE
C'MON!

ZIB...IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?
YEAH, SURE. EVERYTHING IS JAKE.
COPACETIC.
...THEN PERHAPS YOU COULD FIND SOMEWHERE ELSE TO GASP LIKE A HOOKED TROUT?
PARDON ME, I JUST STOPPED BY TO INFORM YOU WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.
EVENTUALLY.
...IS THIS AN OPENING TO ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR DISMAL PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS?
NO, IT'S NOT AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS.
I MEAN THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME SHOOTING. YOU NEED TO HUSTLE EVERYONE OUT THE DOOR, PRONTO!
NO. EVERYONE IS NICE AND AGREEABLE NOW THAT THEY'VE GOT ALCOHOL. EVEN THE RUDE ONE STOPPED COMPLAINING.
I'M NOT FINISHED SCHMOOZING YET.
IF YOU NEED TO SAVE FACE, TELL THEM THERE'S A FIRE OR SOMETHING...
WHATEVER'S GOING ON. YOU'LL JUST NEED TO FIND SOME OTHER WAY TO HANDLE IT.
I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUS...
OH, THE HELL WITH IT--
RAID!
I HATE TO BE A KILL-JOY BUT THE PARTY'S OVER!
EVERYONE OUT.
GO ON.
BELIEVE ME, WE'RE GOING.
THEN QUIT SHUFFLING YOUR FEET.
WHY IS EVERYONE SO PUSHY TONIGHT?
I'M VERY SORRY, GENTLEMEN. WE CAN CONTINUE SOME OTHER TIME?
AUGH! STOP PUSHING!
SORRY, MISS PEPPER.
WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT, IS IT?
NO, NO - SOMETHING MORE ORNERY THAN THAT. BUT I'LL FIX IT. I'LL FIX IT.
ZIB, DON'T. I'M NOT LEAVING THE PLACE TO BE RANSACKED BY --
"EVERYONE" MEANS US TOO.
ZIB...
YEEA!
ARGH
JEEZ, LADY!
STOMP
I SAID NO.
SLAM
...WELL, APPLESAUCE.

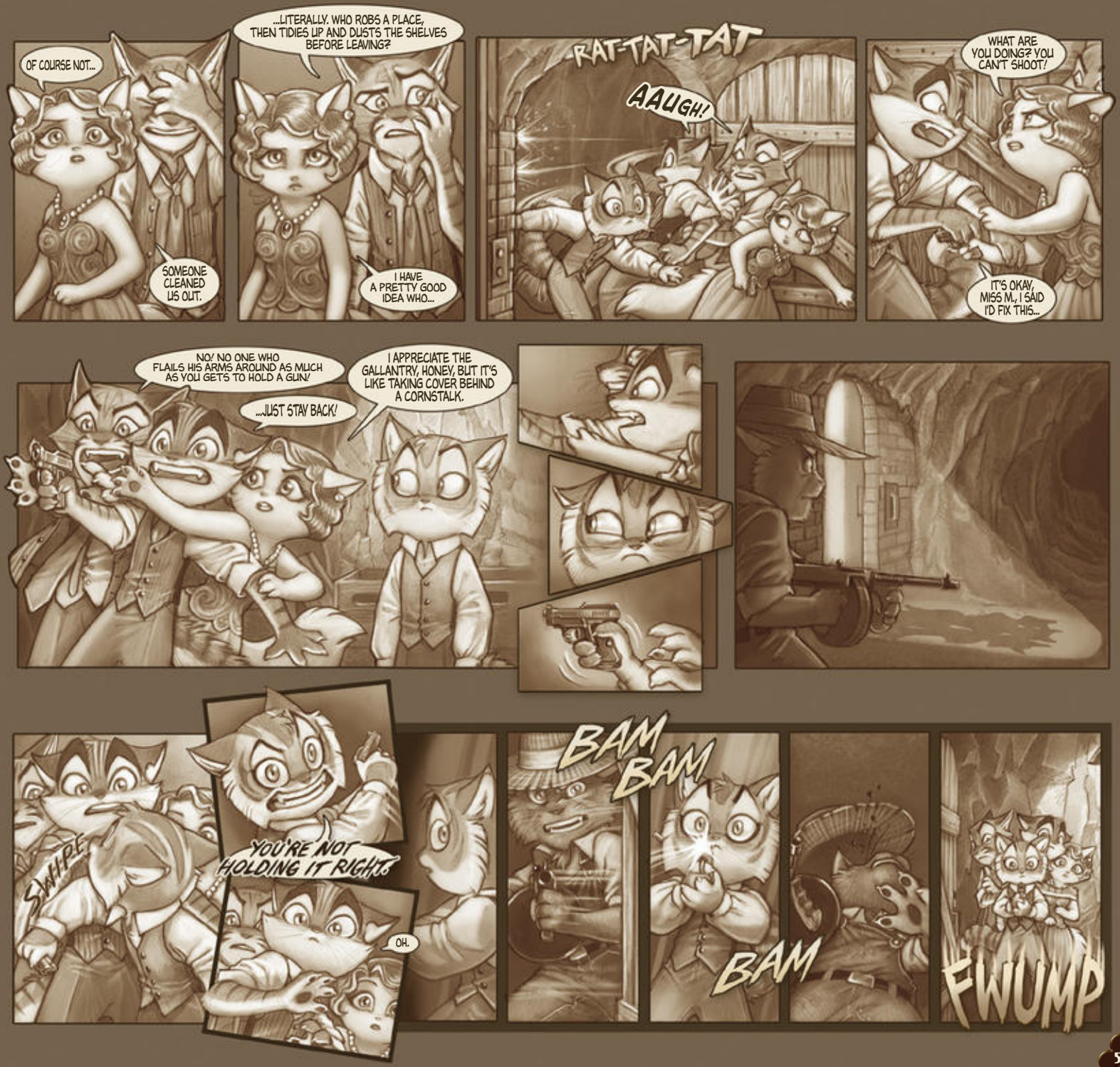
WELL, THAT WAS A PECULIAR SEND OFF.
IT'S JUST AS WELL...
THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF LUCRATIVE STAKES IN THE MARKET, AND SO THERE'S NO REASON ANY OF US SHOULD HAVE AN INTEREST IN ILLEGITIMATE BUSINESS.
WHICH MAKES ME WONDER WHY YOU BROUGHT US...
SO YOU COULD CHARGE IN WITH YOUR TROOP OF SHAREHOLDERS IN A GREAT DISPLAY OF CONCERN FOR THE LADY?
WHAT?
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME OF BEING DUPLICITOUS, CHURCH?
THEY'VE HAD A BOUT OF BAD LUCK HERE.
HONORING THE INVITATION SEEMED ONLY POLITE.
BESIDES, IT'S DIFFICULT TO RESIST A DAMSEL IN DISTRESS.
SHE HAS A REPUTATION AS ANYTHING *BUT*, IF MEMORY SERVES. YOU'VE DONE WELL LATELY ...
...BUT DON'T IMAGINE IT MEANS YOU AND YOUR REPUTATION ARE INVINCIBLE. IF YOU'RE SO INCLINED TO CONSORT WITH UNSCRUPULOUS CRACKPOTS, CONSIDER POLITICS INSTEAD.

GOOD NIGHT, GENTLEMEN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MISS PEPPER?
I'LL JUST GET BACK INSIDE THROUGH THE GARAGE.

WELL, YOU MANAGED TO RUIN THAT OPPORTUNITY AND THE LAST VESTIGES OF OUR REPUTATION IN ONE FELL SWOOP. IMPRESSIVE, ZIB.
LIKEWISE. THANK YOU FOR IMPAIRING MY ABILITY TO RUN FOR MY LIFE JUST WHEN I NEEDED IT.
I WISH YOU'D STOP BEING SO DRAMATIC. I HAVE THIS.
A PEA SHOOTER?
WE'RE SAVED!
THE HEAVIER ARTILLERY'S IN THE CAVES IN BACK.
JUST WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU TONIGHT. YOU NEED TO GET YOUR YEN OFF.
DID I FAIL TO MENTION WE HAVE ONE DOWN IN THE GARAGE ALREADY?
WHAT?
VIKTOR?

GET DOWN, GET DOWN!
EMPTY.
NO IT AIN'T. I JUST HEARD 'EM SQUAWKIN'.
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
KSSH
KCHINK
I BET YOU'RE SORRY NOW, YOU SONSABITCHES!
SORRY ABOUT WHAT? WHAT ARE THEY SO ANGRY ABOUT?
HELL IF I KNOW. MAYBE YOUR ERRAND BOY HERE CAN ENLIGHTEN US.
WHAT DID YOU DO?
UH, I DON'T RECALL, EXACTLY. I'M A LITTLE HAZY ON, UH ... HECK, I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT I HAD FOR LUNCH TODAY. HOW CAN I BE EXPECTED TO REMEM--
YOU HAD PANCAKES.
THANK YOU THAT'S HELPFUL...
YEAH. YOU PROBABLY DON'T NEED TO GO INTO EXCRUCIATING DETAIL ABOUT
...AFTER WE SET THEIR CARS ON FIRE.
AND THEIR HOUSE.
AND THEIR BARN EXPLODED. REMEMBER THAT?
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY'RE SO ANGRY.
AND TO THINK THE POLICE FORCE DIDN'T WANT YOU - SUCH A SMART COOKIE.
YOU SHOULD'VE MADE DETECTIVE.
ONE OF YOU GIT ME A MATCH!
NO!
NO! STAY DOWN!
I CAN'T LET THEM BURN
THEY'LL SHOOT AT ANYTHING THAT MOVES.
THERE HE IS!
THE ONE WITH THE EYEBROWS!

CRACK
GO! BACKSTAGE!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
WHICH WAY?
CHNNG
UHH, THE STOREROOM-LEFT!
IT DON'T MATTER, THEY'RE RUNNIN' LIKE RABBITS 'CAUSE THEY'RE OUT-GUNNED.
BY MYSELF?
YOU'RE SURE YOU DIDN'T HOCK THE ARSENAL ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE?
IT'S ALREADY UNLOCKED...


OF COURSE NOT...
SOMEONE CLEANED US OUT.
...LITERALLY. WHO ROBS A PLACE, THEN TIDIES UP AND DUSTS THE SHELVES BEFORE LEAVING?
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHO...
RAT-TAT-TAT
AAUGH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU CAN'T SHOOT!
IT'S OKAY, MISS M., I SAID I'D FIX THIS...
NO! NO ONE WHO FLAILS HIS ARMS AROUND AS MUCH AS YOU GETS TO HOLD A GUN!
...JUST STAY BACK!
I APPRECIATE THE GALLANTRY, HONEY, BUT IT'S LIKE TAKING COVER BEHIND A CORNSTALK.
SWIPE
YOU'RE NOT HOLDING IT RIGHT!
OH.
BAM BAM
BAM
FWUMP

HEH
HEH-AHA
HA
HAAHA
HA
CHAK
MY COUSIN.
HE HAS YOUR LAUGH.
HAHAHA HAAAAAA

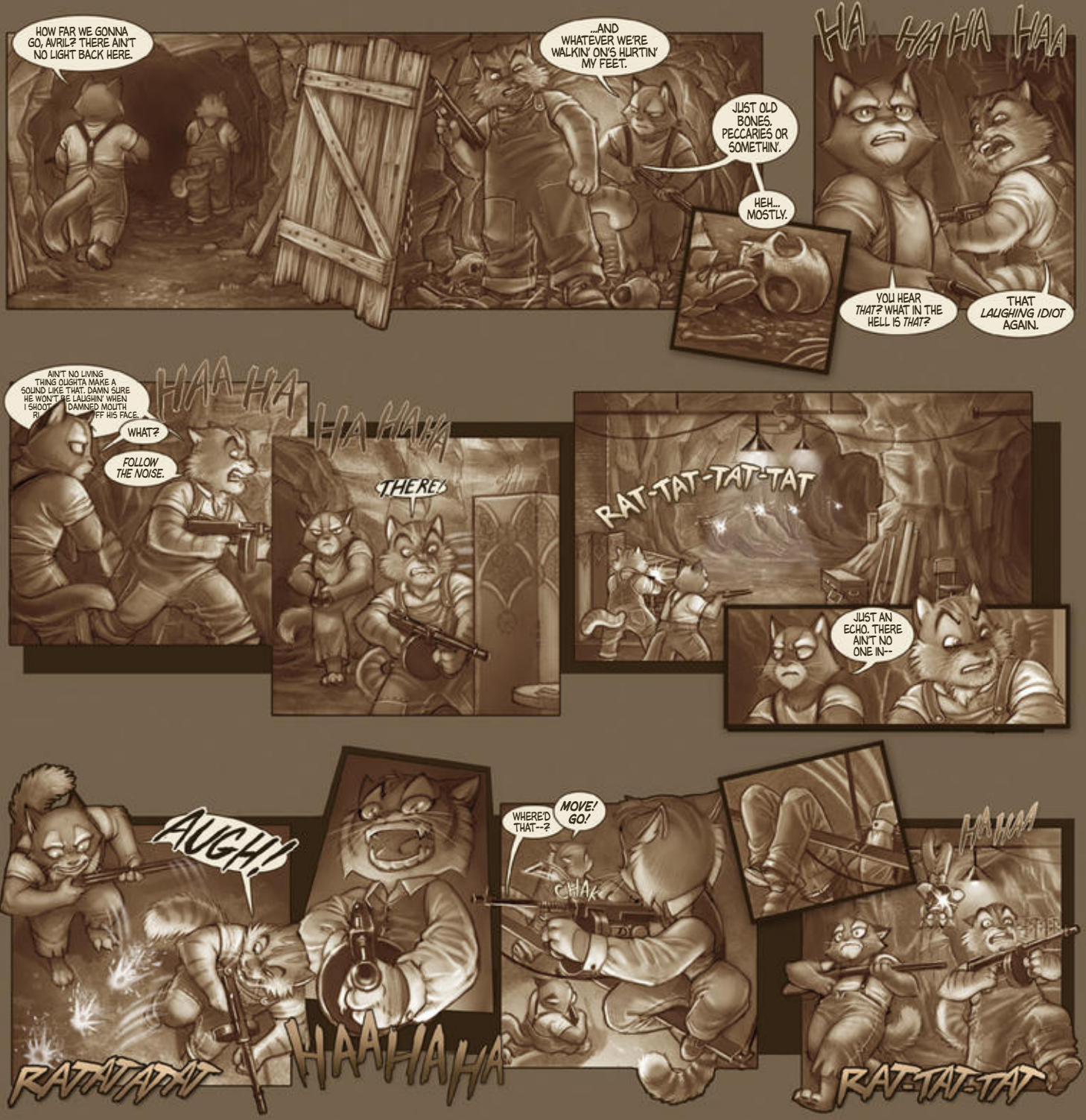
CLICK-KLAK CLICK-KLAK
CLICK
KLAK
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOIN!?
DON'T YOU POINT THAT AT HIM!
GIT OFF!
AUGH!
KICK
KICK
KICK
BAM
EEE!
FWOK

WHAM
KRAK
TAP TAP TAP
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR PUMMELING, VIKTOR, BUT AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO MISSED THE TROLLEY? JUST WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND HERE TONIGHT?
DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR VOICE? LOOK AT YOU - YOU'RE A MESS!
... YOU'RE GONNA NEED A DOCTOR.
NO DOCTOR. I--
COUGH
COUGH COUGH.
HEHHH
NO DOCTOR. I AM FINE.
I'M SORRY - I DIDN'T CATCH THAT. DID YOU SAY SOMETHING OR WERE YOU JUST GARGLING BLOOD?
DON'T YOU GO ANYWHERE. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
WAIT! WAIT!
AAUGH!
NO --
GAK-K
PLEASE!
NOW. NOW JUST... HOLD ON NOW. I DIDN'T WANT NO TROUBLE. I WAS JUST TRYIN' TO GET BACK TO MY TRUCK.
SO IF YOU'LL JUST, UH. I'LL JUST...
MY TRUCK NAOW.

DID YOU HEAR THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE GUNFIRE COMING FROM THE NEXT STREET OVER.
JUST SOMEONE'S CAR BACKFIRING. I'M SURE.
YOUR GOOD JUDGEMENT ABOUT NIGHT SPOTS REMAINS DUBIOUS NEVERTHELESS.
ARE YOU COMING?
CLICK-KLAK CLICK-KLAK
NO. I'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF YOUR VITRIOL AND NOT ENOUGH DRINK TO TOLERATE MORE, MY FRIEND. MY OWN DRIVER SHOULD BE ALONG SHORTLY.
GOOD NIGHT, CHURCH.
I DON'T THINK I COULD STOMACH ANY MORE CHIVALRY ANYWAY. GOOD NIGHT TO YOU, WICK.
OPERATOR. I NEED YOU TO CONNECT ME TO LEO QUACKENBUSH.
YES ST. LOUIS COUNTY.
DR. QUACKENBUSH! WE HAVE AN INJURED PARTY AND --
OH SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO YELL.
YES, I KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS. IT'S URGENT.
IVY.
PEPPER.
ATLAS'S GODDAUGHTER.
YES. I KNOW IT'S LATE, BUT I NEED TO CALL IN THAT FAVOR...
OH. YOU DON'T? ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE I THOUGHT --
YOU KNOW YOU'RE AWFULLY UPPITY FOR A HORSE DOCTOR PARADING AS A--
SO... WE OWE YOU? WELL I'M CERTAIN IT WAS JUST AN OVERSIGHT.
UM... HOW ABOUT CASH THEN?
RIGHT, IN FULL.
OF COURSE I HAVE IT.
HEY!
PLONK
YOU HAVE MONEY!
UMM...
...THANKS?

NO, I MEAN I NEED SOME OF IT.
FOR A GOOD CAUSE.
HEH, DID YOU TAKE UP WITH THE SISTERS OF MERCY SINCE I WAS HERE LAST, UH, MISS PEPPER?
A BIG, ONE-EYED LUNK WITH A LUNGFUL OF BUCKSHOT.
WHAT ARE YOU COLLECTING FOR EXACTLY?
...THAT'S A NEW ONE.
I MEAN *VIKTOR*. THERE WAS A LITTLE... ACCIDENT... OF SORTS. THE HORSE DOCTOR'S ON HIS WAY, BUT--
HORSE DOCTOR?
UH, WOULDN'T THE CUSTOMARY THING BE TO TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL? WE COULD DRIVE HIM TO THE NEAREST--
THEY ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS AT HOSPITALS... AND THEN THERE'S THE PROBABLE *AHEM* OUTSTANDING WARRANTS AND...
THE WHAT? THIS ALL SEEMS RATHER UNORTHODOX. ARE YOU SURE --
IT'D ALL SEEM RATHER *UNCHIVALROUS* IF MISS M. FOUND HER BARTENDER HAD SNUFFED IT BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO DUMBFOUNDED TO MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL.
OH... YOU HEARD ALL THAT, HUH?
WELL, I SUPPOSE I DUG MY OWN GRAVE, THEN, DIDN'T I?
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE A LITTLE LATER THAN EXPECTED, BIX. WHY DON'T YOU GO ON HOME? I'LL JUST CATCH A CAB.
313
SO YOU WAIT HERE AND WHEN THE DOCTOR SHOWS UP, JUST HAND HIM A FISTFUL OF CASH AND SEND HIM OVER TO THE GARAGE.
HELL IF I KNOW.
UH, RIGHT... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE ANYWAY? IT'S BEEN A STRANGE EVENING.

CLICK-KLAK
CLICK-KLAK
CLICK
VIKTOR.
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING? I TOLD YOU TO STAY HERE.
DON'T PRETEND YOU CAN'T HEAR ME.
LEO'S COMING TO SEE YOU, SO BEHAVE YOURSELF. TRY NOT TO DISLOCATE HIS ARM OR ...
...SOMETHING...
CAN'T GET DOWN THE STAIRS, HUH?
POKE
POKE
SEE? THIS IS WHY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TENDING THE BAR NOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING UP HERE ANYWAY.
HEY, WHAT BECAME OF THAT SCRUFFY CHARACTER WAVING THE GUN AROUND?
UHHH. I LET HIM GO.
LET HIM GO? JUST LIKE THAT?
I PAT HIM ON HIS HEAD FIRST. BYE-BYE. THANK YOU FOR VISIT
COUGH
VE HAFF LUNCH SOMETIME.
NO YOU DIDN'T.
...REALLY?
NO.
WELL, WHERE IS HE THEN?
HOUDINI?
VIKTOR... SOMEONE NEEDS TO TEACH YOU HOW TO TELL A DECENT LIE.
I DON'T KNOW. VANISHED LIKE, EHH-- VHAT'S HIS NAME? WHO DOES ALVAYS THOSE TRICKS.
YA HOUDINI.


HOW FAR WE GONNA GO, AVRIL? THERE AIN'T NO LIGHT BACK HERE.
...AND WHATEVER WE'RE WALKIN' ON'S HURTIN' MY FEET.
JUST OLD BONES. PECCARIES OR SOMETHIN'.
HEH... MOSTLY.
HA HA HA HAA
YOU HEAR THAT? WHAT IN THE HELL IS THAT?
THAT LAUGHING IDIOT AGAIN.
AIN'T NO LIVING THING OUGHTA MAKE A SOUND LIKE THAT. DAMN SURE HE WON'T BE LAUGHIN' WHEN I SHOOT DAMNED MOUTH OFF HIS FACE.
WHAT?
FOLLOW THE NOISE.
HAA HA
HA HAHA
THERE!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
JUST AN ECHO. THERE AIN'T NO ONE IN--
AUGH!
RATATATAT
HAAHAHA
WHERE'D THAT--?
MOVE! GO!
CHAK
HA HAA
RAT-TAT-TAT

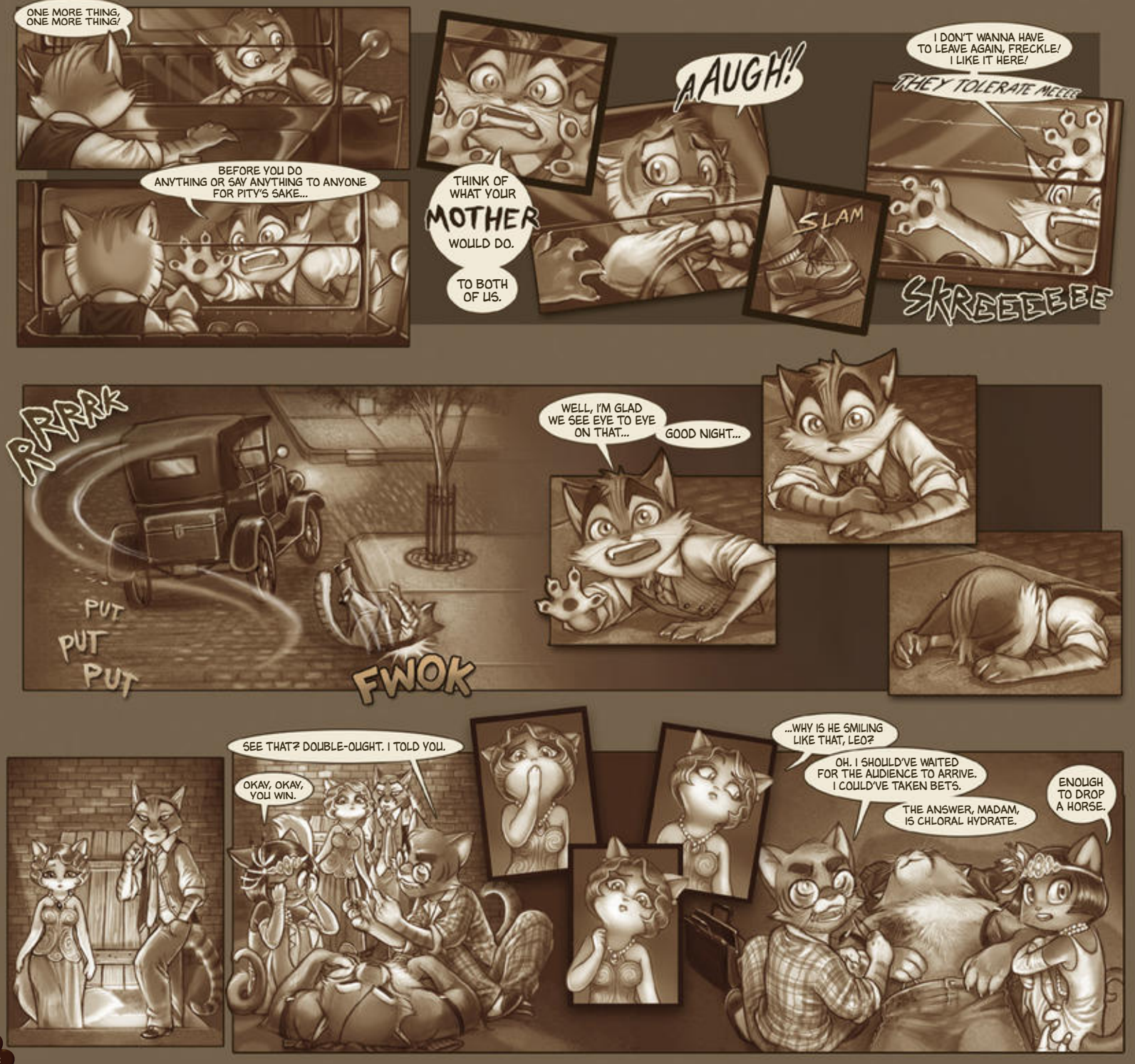
THAT WAY, THAT WAY!
WHUMP
THERE HE IS!
GOTDAMN, IT AIN'T HIM. IT'S TH' OTHER ONE.
WHERE'D HE GET A CHOPPER FROM?
I DUNNO. JUST KEEP MOVIN' TILL I SAY.
YOU JUST GIT READY TO POP THE LITTLE BASTARD WHEN HE COMES AROUND THE COR--
--NER-
UM...
HA!
SMACK
YOU!
RAT-TAT-TAT
RRAAUGH ROTTEN GRINNING BLACKGUARD M'GONNA SHOOT YOU IN HALF. YOU WRETCHED LITTLE STICK-LEGGED PANSY-TOE MILKSOP SON-OF-A-

AVRIL--
HEY!
OH!
TAP
BAM
RATATATAT
STRIKE
STRIKE
STRIKE
...YOU NEED SOME HELP WITH THAT?
I GOT IT.
STRIKE
STRIKE
RRRRRAUGH!!
SCAWWWY SAP-HEADED TICK-BAITER, RRRRR!
TAP
WHOOP
FWOP
!
SKID

AVRIL, AVRIL! FROM ONE REASONED INDIVIDUAL TO ANOTHER...
.. UH, IF SPEECH IS TRULY WHAT SEPARATES US FROM THE BEASTS...
AS THE GREEKS SUGGESTED...
... I REMAIN OPTIMISTIC WE'RE NOT YET BEYOND A RESOLUTION...
... UH, THROUGH CIVIL DISCOURSE?
ARRAAWRGH!
HRK!
KRNCH
WHAM
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT
AUGH A! STOP STOP STOP!
RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT

PANT PANT PANT
UH, GEE, UH, THANKS.
THAT WAS GRACIOUS OF YOU ---
UH, YOU CAN PUT THE GUN DOWN NOW.
...OH.
OH, SORRY.
SORRY.
S-SORRY.
SORRY ABOUT THE, UH --
OH...MY... UNHOLY MESS.
IT'S NOTHING A LITTLE... QUICKLIME CAN'T FIX.
OH, BUT DON'T GET SO UPSET, SWEETIE.
. . .
UHHHH I HAVE TO GO NOW.
ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'RE ALRIGHT, RIGHT?
DOES HE ... DO THIS OFTEN?
WHAT? THE CRAZY DANCE?
OH, ONCE OR TWICE...
...THOUGH THE, UH, UNMITIGATED CARNAGE IS A RECENT DEVELOPMENT...
HM.
HE'S GOOD AT IT.
WHUH... WELL, I CAN'T ARGUE THAT. ER, I MEAN I'M SORRY IT CAME TO THAT...
I WAS JUST TRYING TO BE THOROUGH, ABOUT, UH...
THAT IS, I WASN'T EXPECTING ALL THAT MURDEROUS RAMPAGING.
WELL, HONEY, YOU HAVE THAT AFFECT ON PEOPLE.
I NEED TO GO SEE IF I STILL HAVE A BARTENDER.
SO... SORRY FOR THE BULLET-RIDDLED FURNITURE...
AND FOR THE BODIES STREWN ALL OVER THE PREMISES.
AND FOR SCARING AWAY YOUR STUFFY ALCOHOLIC GUESTS AND...
UM...
PAT PAT PAT
JUST PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR COUSIN'S NOT GOING TO RUN OFF AND DO SOMETHING SILLY...
...LIKE TURN HIMSELF IN.

FRECKLE!
FRECKLE?
FRECKLE, WAIT!
HANG ON! WE NEED TO CHAT!
I'LL MAKE YOU A SANDWICH!
AAAUGH OH GOD!
I DON'T WANT A SANDWICH!
THUNK!
HOW DOES THIS OPEN?
WHERE'S THE LATCH?
THUD
SMASH
WATCH IT, FANCYPANTS!
SKRRR
OH, BOY. IT'S OLD LIZZIE. IT'S GONNA TAKE YOU TEN MINUTES TO START THAT THING COUSIN. YOU MIGHT AS WELL TALK TO ME!
I FEEL SICK.
WELL, THAT'S A START. NOW, INSTEAD OF DOING SOMETHING RIDICULOUS LIKE GIVING US ALL AWAY TO YOUR FRIENDS DOWN AT THE STATION...
CHRRRR
RRRRR
KRANK
...LET'S JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND LAUGH IT OFF JUST LIKE BEFORE, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW
HA-HA!
HUUAGHH!!
COUGH*
COUGH
UHH... CLOSE ENOUGH I SUPPOSE.


ONE MORE THING, ONE MORE THING!
BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING OR SAY ANYTHING TO ANYONE FOR PITY'S SAKE...
THINK OF WHAT YOUR MOTHER WOULD DO.
TO BOTH OF US.
AAUGH!
SLAM
I DON'T WANNA HAVE TO LEAVE AGAIN, FRECKLE! I LIKE IT HERE!
THEY TOLERATE MEEES
SKREEEEEEE
RRRRK
PUT PUT PUT
FWOK
WELL, I'M GLAD WE SEE EYE TO EYE ON THAT...
GOOD NIGHT...
SEE THAT? DOUBLE-OUGHT. I TOLD YOU.
OKAY, OKAY, YOU WIN.
...WHY IS HE SMILING LIKE THAT, LEO?
OH. I SHOULD'VE WAITED FOR THE AUDIENCE TO ARRIVE. I COULD'VE TAKEN BETS.
THE ANSWER, MADAM, IS CHLORAL HYDRATE.
ENOUGH TO DROP A HORSE.

I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT TRICK...
WELL, IT'S NOT GENERALLY GOOD PRACTICE TO DO THAT TO SOMEONE WITH A SUCKING CHEST WOUND. BUT THIS ONE NEARLY RELIEVED ME OF MY ARMS LAST TIME I WAS HERE.
...WHICH WASN'T SO LONG AGO.
MM. WE SEEM TO BE STUCK IN A ONE-SIDED FELID WITH A RELENTLESS FORMER ASSOCIATE.
I'M SORRY, VIKTOR. FIRST YOUR GOOD KNEE, AND NOW THIS...
IT'S BEEN A ROUGH YEAR, HUH?
HUHHM?
MAYBE AT LEAST NOW YOU'LL STOP PUTTING UP SUCH A FIGHT ABOUT STAYING IN THE BAR, HONEY....
HONEY WON'T BE DOING ANYTHING FOR AWHILE, EXCEPT MAYBE ENJOYING A NICE BOUT OF PNEUMONIA.
SIGH AS LONG AS WE'RE BEING FRANK WITH EACH OTHER... I CAN'T PAY YOU RIGHT NOW, LEO.
YOU ALREADY DID. BUT IF YOU'D LIKE TO DO IT AGAIN - BY ALL MEANS.
I DID?
WELL, THE CONFUSED-LOOKING GENTLEMAN IN THE CAFE DID.
OH.
WICK?

...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
UH.
RAIDING THE PANTRY? IF YOU'RE THAT HUNGRY, I COULD MAKE YOU SOMETHING.
OH, NO NEED. I THOUGHT I'D HELP MYSELF TO AN EARLY BREAKFAST OF, UH, BAKING SODA AND ... TOMATO PASTE.
INTERESTING TASTE.
ACTUALLY, I WAS JUST CLEARING THE SHRAPNEL OUT OF THE WAY HERE.
WATCH OUT FOR THE FLOOR OLIVES, THEY'RE TREACHEROUS.
OH. THANKS.
...AND, MOREOVER, THANK YOU. VIKTOR'S ONE OF THE FEW VESTIGES I HAVE LEFT FROM... WELL, I COULDN'T REALLY DO WITHOUT HIM. I WILL PAY YOU BACK.
MY PLEASURE, REALLY. HOW IS HE ANYWAY?
OH, SUPINE AND BLOODY. BUT HE SEEMED TO BE ENJOYING WHATEVER HE WAS HALLUCINATING ABOUT.
...UH, SOUNDS RATHER SERIOUS. WHAT HAPPENED EXACTLY?
OKAY...RIGHT. I'M CATCHING ON. THE FEWER QUESTIONS, THE BETTER.
SEDGEWICK. YOU'RE A VERY NICE MAN. EXTRAORDINARILY SO...
...AND I WOULD HATE TO... UM...
MITZI?
YOU TRAILED OFF A BIT JUST N--

SORRY. I DO THAT SOME-TIMES.
BOTH, APPARENTLY
WHAT? TRAIL OFF OR POUNCE ON THE UNWARY?
SLIP SLIP SLIP SLIP
OLIVES...
NO ONE SAW THAT...

WELL, TOP O' THE MORNIN' TO YOU, DEAR AUNT.
ROARK, WHAT'RE Y'DOIN' HERE THIS EARLY?
JUST LOOKING FOR THE BOY. YOU HAVEN'T, UH, SPOKEN TO HIM YET TODAY, HAVE YOU?
TAKE THAT RIDICULOUS HAT OFF WHILE YOU'RE IN THE HOUSE.
AND NO. HE'S STILL IN BED. BUT Y'MIGHT AS WELL GET HIM UP. HE'S SUPPOSED T'BE OUT FINDIN' WORK.
OH, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE FOUND THE JOB FOR HIM.
WHAT? WHAT JOB?

To Be Continued...

LACKADAISY

Sketchbook

Lackadaisy Cardshark, 2007

Calvin "Freckle" McMurray
MOM?!

Rocky Rickaby
CRAZY VOODOO

Miss Mitzi May

Mordecai Heller
SCALPY...

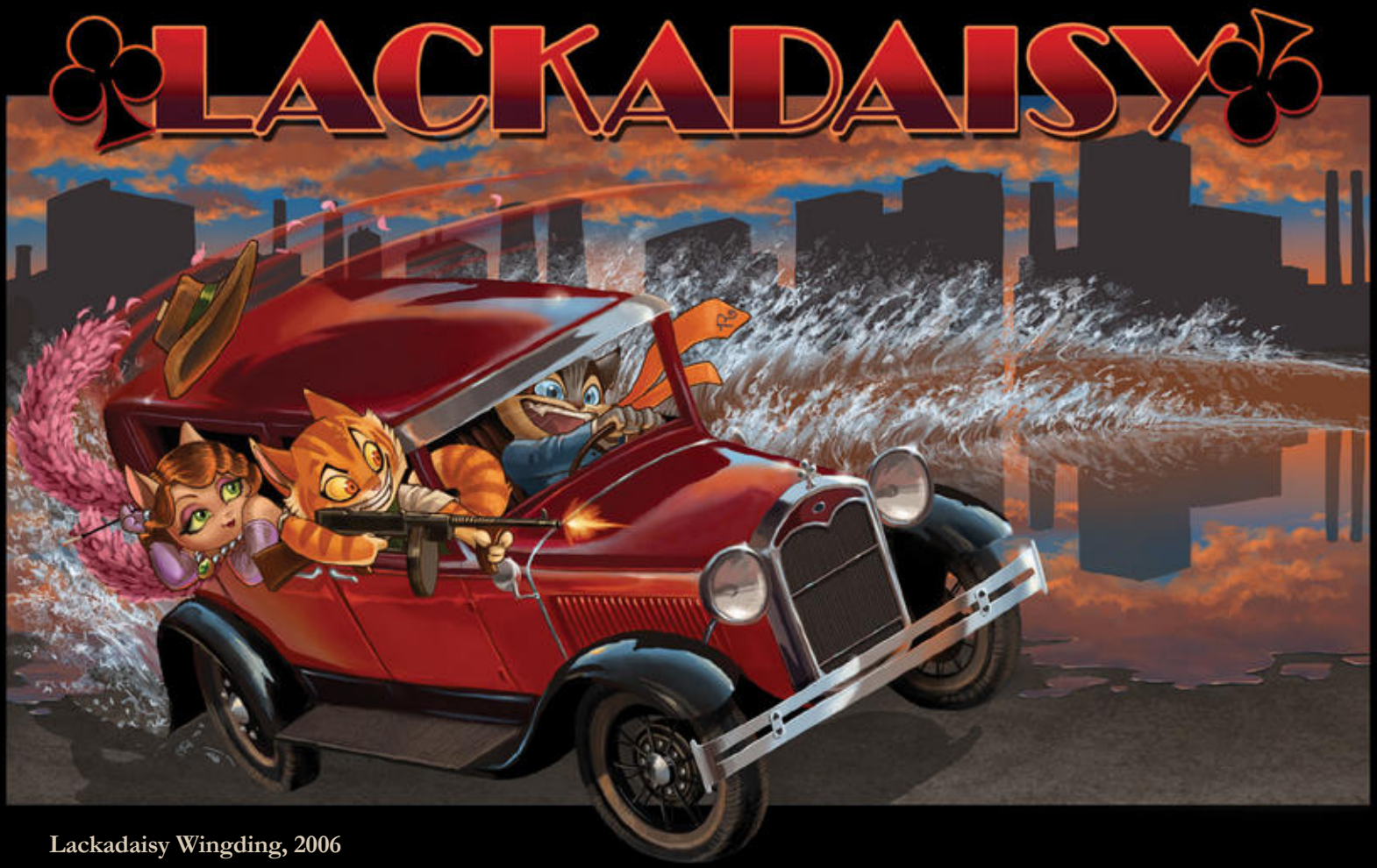
Ivy Pepper

Sedgewick "Wick" Sable

Nicodeme "Nico" Savoy

Serafine Savoy
BAR M1918
(sawed off barrel)

Lackadaisy Harlequin, 2007

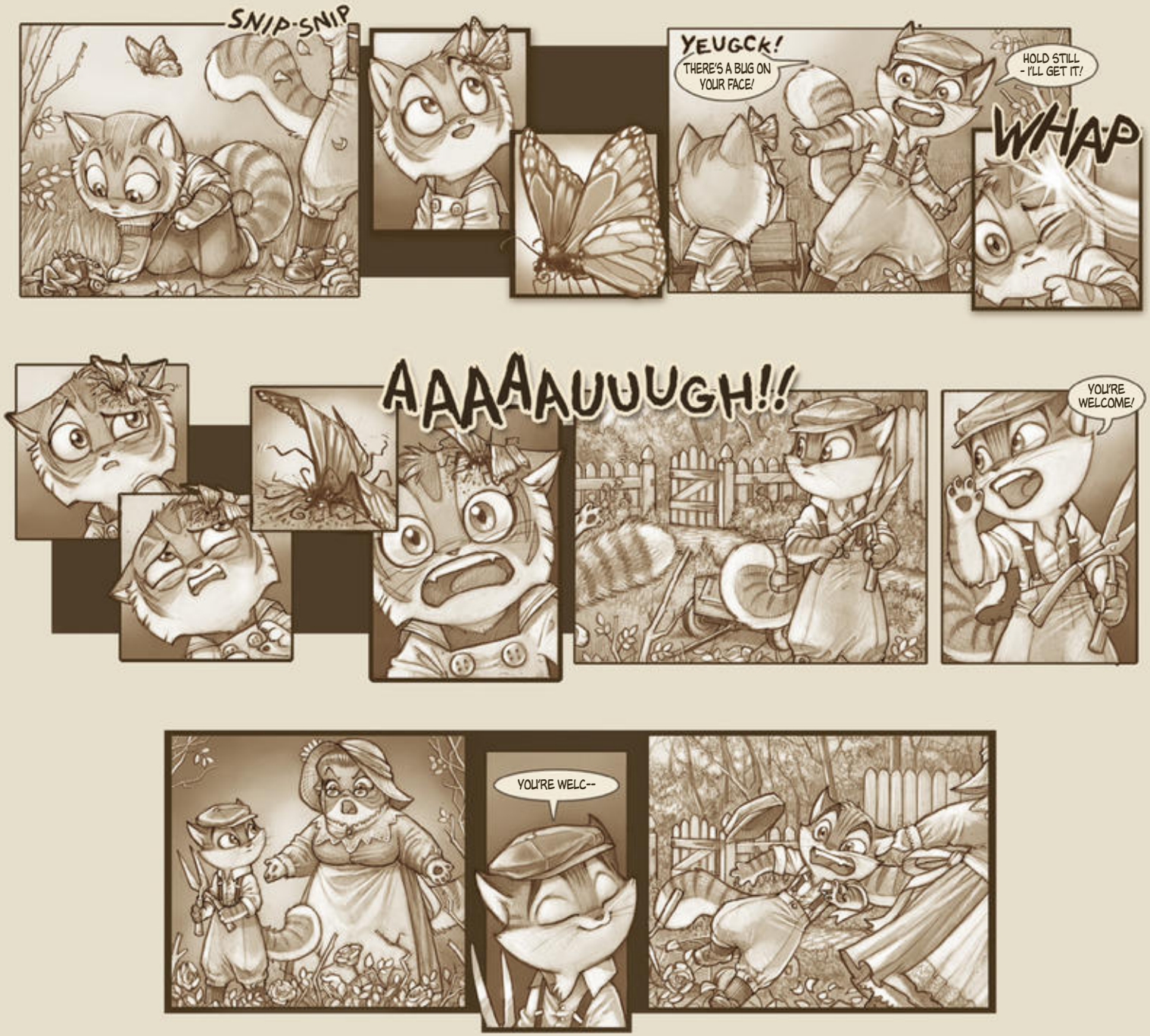


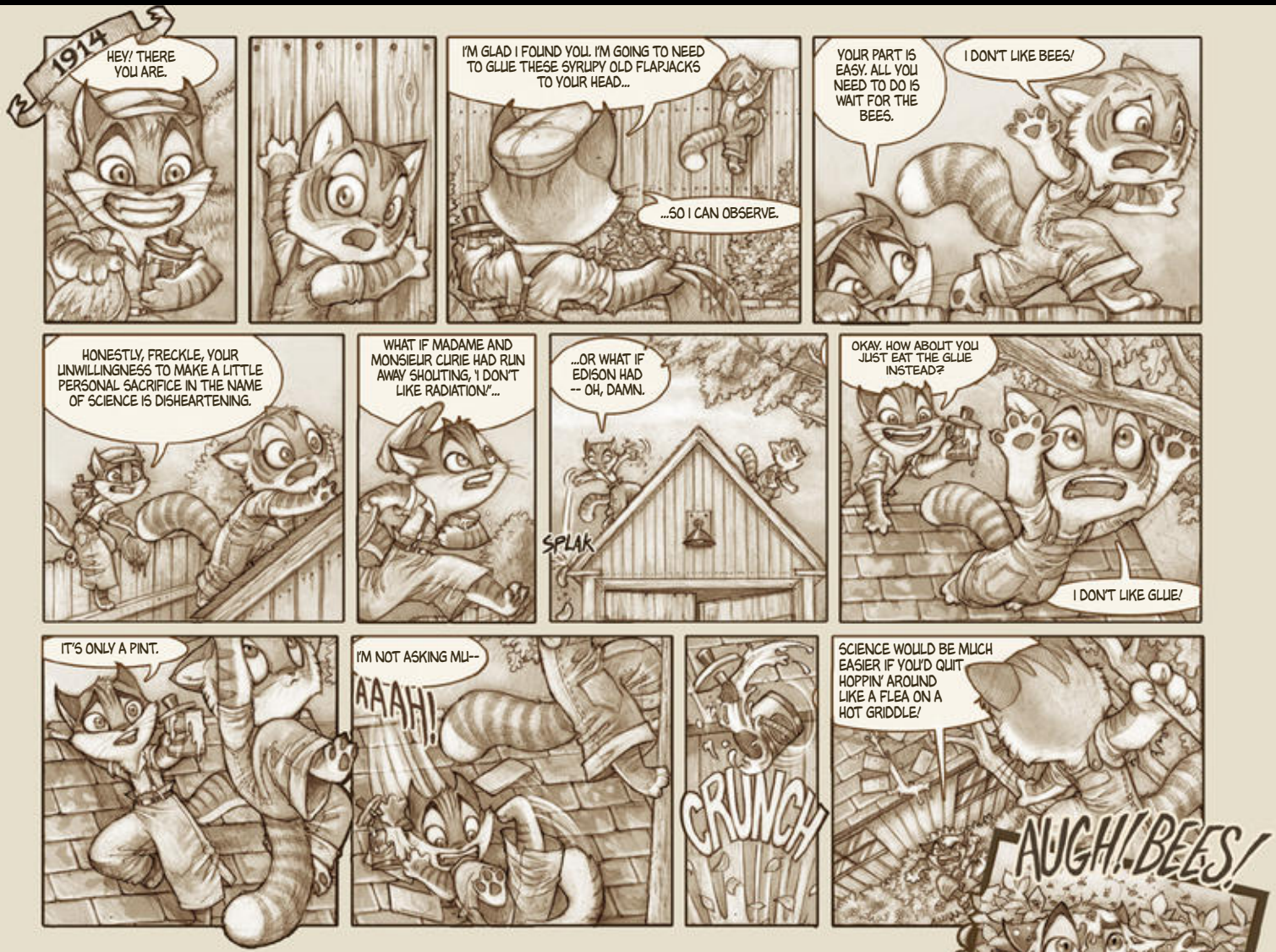
Lackadaisy Wingding, 2006

Lackadaisy Voodoo, 2007

Lackadaisy Clockwork, 2008

This combination of painting and comic was a sort of ode to childhood, when one's own backyard is a great wilderness. Navigating youth itself, with its unrelenting series of little traumas, is perhaps the most treacherous part of the adventure, though. Even good intentions can get you in trouble. - *Tracy*


SNIP-SNIP
YEUGCK!
THERE'S A BUG ON YOUR FACE!
HOLD STILL - I'LL GET IT!
WHAP
AAAAAUUUGH!!
YOU'RE WELCOME!
YOU'RE WELC--


1914
HEY! THERE YOU ARE.
I'M GLAD I FOUND YOU. I'M GOING TO NEED TO GLUE THESE SYRUPY OLD FLAPJACKS TO YOUR HEAD...
...SO I CAN OBSERVE.
YOUR PART IS EASY. ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS WAIT FOR THE BEES.
I DON'T LIKE BEES!
HONESTLY, FRECKLE, YOUR UNWILLINGNESS TO MAKE A LITTLE PERSONAL SACRIFICE IN THE NAME OF SCIENCE IS DISHEARTENING.
WHAT IF MADAME AND MONSIEUR CURIE HAD RUN AWAY SHOUTING, 'I DON'T LIKE RADIATION!'...
...OR WHAT IF EDISON HAD -- OH, DAMN.
SPLAK
OKAY. HOW ABOUT YOU JUST EAT THE GLUE INSTEAD?
I DON'T LIKE GLUE!
IT'S ONLY A PINT.
I'M NOT ASKING MU--
AAAAH!
CRUNCH
SCIENCE WOULD BE MUCH EASIER IF YOU'D QUIT HOPPIN' AROUND LIKE A FLEA ON A HOT GRIDDLE!
AUGH! BEES!

Not much about Rocky and Freckle's relationship has changed since boyhood. Ostensibly, for Freckle, developing that acrobatic prowess of his was something of a survival technique. - *Tracy*

WHAT'S THERE TO SAY ABOUT POOR SAMMY SCRUGGS NOW THAT HE'S FARE FOR THE WORMS AND THE BUGS?
THERE NEVER LIVED A PATRON SO DEEPLY DEVOUT ABOUT COURTING THE MOONSHINE DAY IN AND DAY OUT. WHAT A SHAME THAT, WHEN DOWN-N-OUT ON HIS LUCK, HE THOUGHT HE COULD SNITCH US OUT FOR A BUCK. NOW IT'S NOT MY INTENTION TO SNEER, HARP 'N GROUSE..
BUT YOU SURE HAD IT COMING YA DIRTY OLD LOUSE!!
MY MOM JUST CAME OUT OF THE HOUSE!
THAT'S REAL CUTE, SHAKESPEARE, BUT YOU NEED MORE SYLLABLES. YOU BETTER JUST LET ME DO THE RHYMING AUNT NINA!?
FE' AMAE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY RHODODENDRONS AT THIS UNGODLY HOUR.??
HAHPICKING FLOWERS FOR YOUUU.

This was the very first comic I drew while the idea for Lackadaisy was still very much in development. The style was a little rough around the edges at this point, but I think it's still representative of the quintessential Rocky and Freckle. - *Tracy*

PEOPLE ARE IMPERTINENT THESE DAYS, VIKTOR.
VHAT?
THAT WOMAN HAS BEEN STARING AT US SINCE WE WALKED IN HERE.
IT'S RUDE.
SHE IS NOT STARING. SHE IS MAKING EYES AT YOU.
WELL, WHAT EXACTLY IS SHE EXPECTING TO ACHIEVE BY DOING THAT?
VAITING TO SEE IF YOU GIVE HER BACK THE LOOK.
THE LOOK?
YAH - DARK, EHH, SMOULDER LOOK LIKE VALENTINO.
YOU MEAN SMOULDERING. SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
NO.

AM I DOING IT NOW?
NO.
IS THIS IT?
MAYBE HAPPIER, LITTLE BIT.
HOW IS THIS
NO.
...VORSE.
DARK LOOK LIKE VALENTINO IS DIFFERENT THING FROM DARK LOOK LIKE, EHH, I VILL LIKE TO MURDER YOUR FAMILY ... VITH ICEPICK, PROBABLY.
THAT WASN'T REMOTELY LIKE THE ICEPICK LOOK, BUT PERHAPS I NEED A LESSON IN NUANCE. SHALL I STEP ASIDE SO YOU CAN MAKE EYE AT HER, SHEIK?

Back in the day, Viktor and Mordecai worked together. I imagine this made for some interesting (if not disturbing) conversations. - *Tracy*

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I TOLD YOU TO SIT IN THE MIDDLE.
WHY DO WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING OVER THIS?
A BIT OF COMMON COURTESY - IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK WHILE WE'RE PRACTICALLY CHAUFFEURING YOU ABOUT?
DID WE NOT ESTABLISH THAT OUR LINE OF SYMMETRY IS OVER HERE?
AND DO YOU NOT REALIZE THAT YOUR BLITHE DISREGARD FOR THIS IS THROWING THE GEOMETRIC SPACIAL HARMONY IN HERE COMPLETELY OUT OF KILTER?
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE?
HMMM?
ASYMMETRY?
NUDGE
NUDGE
NUDGE
MN. MMF?
YES. THAT'S AN IMPROVEMENT. THANK YOU.

SOB
SOB
NUDGE
NUDGE
NUDGE
I SAW THAT. YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT IT? YOU NEVER LIKED SYMMETRY!
DID YOU LIE ABOUT LIKING GRAMMAR TOO?
AURGH! ALWAYS THEY ARE CRYING IN MY EAR!
AND YOU! NOISE, NOISE!
IT MAKES NEVER ANY SENSE, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING!
YOU FRAUD! YOUR FACADE IS A LITTLE ASYMMETRICAL. LET ME FIX THAT FOR YOU.
KUS VOLA! ZABIJEM T'A!
RRRRK
CHNK

More of the sociopathic adventures of Viktor and Mordecai. (The language Viktor is shouting in is Slovakian.) - *Tracy*

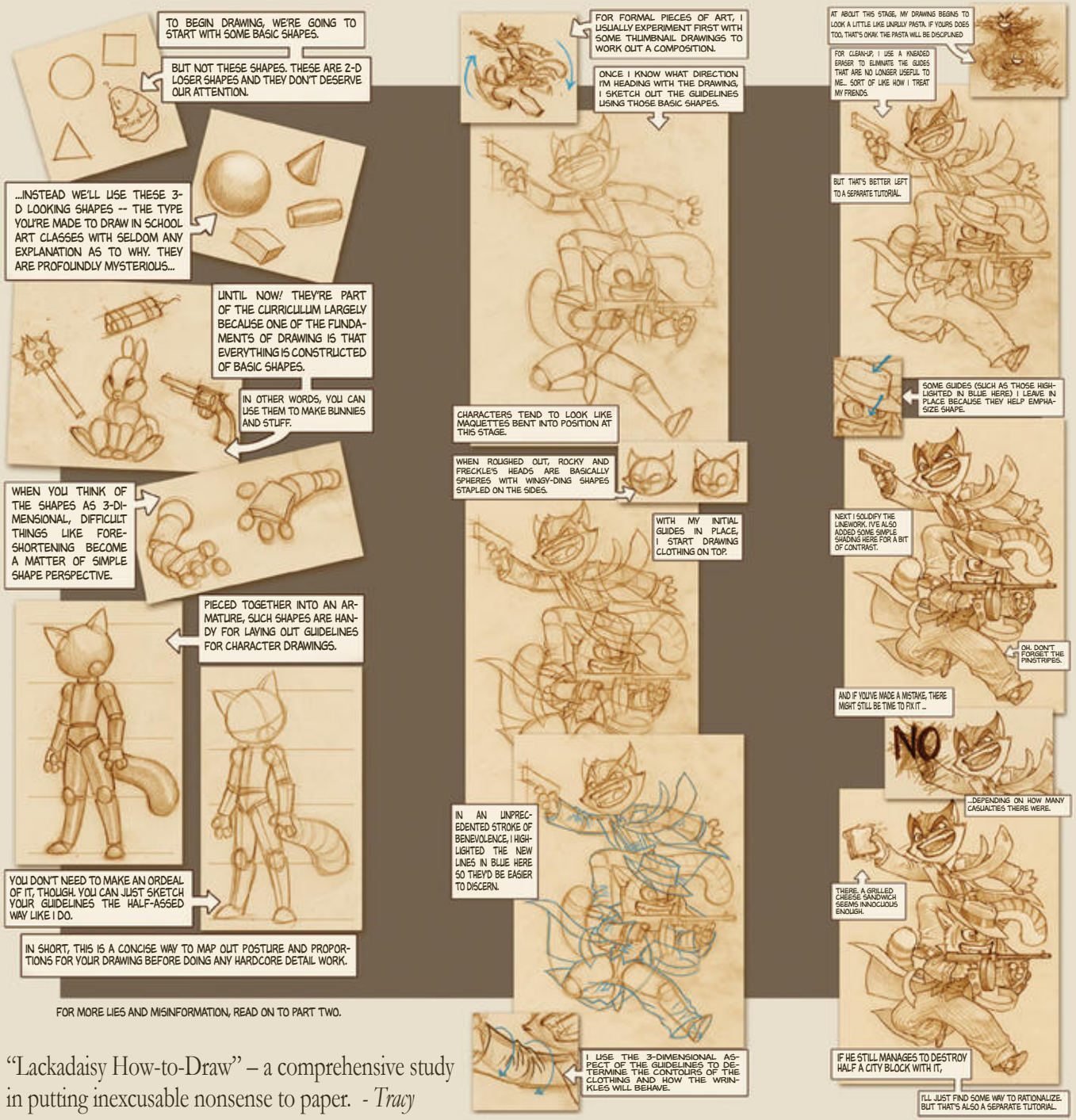
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT ANY OF US JUST SAID.
LAWD!
STRIKE ME BLIND, WHAT A CHASSIS!
GAMS UP TO 'ER EYEBALLS!
THERE'S A VAMP ON THE MAKE IF I EVER SAW ONE.

This little comic featuring Rocky, Freckle and Wick was drawn in the early development stages of the project while I was researching the colorful vernacular of the Jazz Age. For the unsavvy, it seems slang was just as incomprehensible back then as it can be in modern times. - *Tracy*

SO WHY DO YOU CALL HIM FRECKLE, HONEY?
WELL, WHEN I WAS A KID AND HE WAS JUST A KITTEN, I SHAVED ALL THE FUR OFF HIS FACE.
AND HE HAD A FRECKLE.
JUST ONE.
WHY ON EARTH DID YOU SHAVE THE FUR OFF YOUR BABY COUSIN'S FACE?
BECAUSE HE WAS TOO LITTLE TO STOP ME.

One of the early comics – a little exposition about Freckle's name. - *Tracy*

Chit-Chat Time
with Viktor
IT CONSTITUTES BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL A BIT, BUT PEOPLE KEEP ASKING, SO WHY NOT ENLIGHTEN US VIKTOR - WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EYE?
WHAT ARE YOU? SOME KIND AF MONKEY?
HOW ABOUT YOU ANSWER MY QUESTION FIRST?
I AM GOING.
THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS. YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT CHIT-CHAT.
SOME SORT OF FREAK HIGH-VELOCITY BALLISTIC GOOSE-RELATED ACCIDENT!
WHAT? REALLY?
ABSOLUTELY.
NO WONDER HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
WHO DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT?
VIKTOR. ABOUT THE GOOSE... ACCIDENT.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT VIKTOR?
And Thus Concludes
Non-Sequitur Time
With Rocky


TO BEGIN DRAWING, WE'RE GOING TO START WITH SOME BASIC SHAPES.
BUT NOT THESE SHAPES. THESE ARE 2-D LOSER SHAPES AND THEY DON'T DESERVE OUR ATTENTION.
...INSTEAD WE'LL USE THESE 3-D LOOKING SHAPES -- THE TYPE YOU'RE MADE TO DRAW IN SCHOOL ART CLASSES WITH SELDOM ANY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY. THEY ARE PROFOUNDLY MYSTERIOUS...
UNTIL NOW! THEY'RE PART OF THE CURRICULUM LARGELY BECAUSE ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTS OF DRAWING IS THAT EVERYTHING IS CONSTRUCTED OF BASIC SHAPES.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN USE THEM TO MAKE BUNNIES AND STUFF.
WHEN YOU THINK OF THE SHAPES AS 3-DIMENSIONAL, DIFFICULT THINGS LIKE FORESHORTENING BECOME A MATTER OF SIMPLE SHAPE PERSPECTIVE.
PIECED TOGETHER INTO AN ARMATURE, SUCH SHAPES ARE HANDY FOR LAYING OUT GUIDELINES FOR CHARACTER DRAWINGS.
YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE AN ORDEAL OF IT, THOUGH. YOU CAN JUST SKETCH YOUR GUIDELINES THE HALF-ASSED WAY LIKE I DO.
IN SHORT, THIS IS A CONCISE WAY TO MAP OUT POSTURE AND PROPORTIONS FOR YOUR DRAWING BEFORE DOING ANY HARDCORE DETAIL WORK.
FOR MORE LIES AND MISINFORMATION, READ ON TO PART TWO.
FOR FORMAL PIECES OF ART, I USUALLY EXPERIMENT FIRST WITH SOME THUMBNAIL DRAWINGS TO WORK OUT A COMPOSITION.
ONCE I KNOW WHAT DIRECTION I'M HEADING WITH THE DRAWING, I SKETCH OUT THE GUIDELINES USING THOSE BASIC SHAPES.
CHARACTERS TEND TO LOOK LIKE MAQUETTES BENT INTO POSITION AT THIS STAGE.
WHEN ROUGHED OUT, ROCKY AND FRECKLES' HEADS ARE BASICALLY SPHERES WITH WINGY-DING SHAPES STAPLED ON THE SIDES.
WITH MY INITIAL GUIDES IN PLACE, I START DRAWING CLOTHING ON TOP.
IN AN UNPRECEDENTED STROKE OF BENEVOLENCE, I HIGHLIGHTED THE NEW LINES IN BLUE HERE SO THEY'D BE EASIER TO DISCERN.
I USE THE 3-DIMENSIONAL ASPECT OF THE GUIDELINES TO DETERMINE THE CONTOURS OF THE CLOTHING AND HOW THE WRINKLES WILL BEHAVE.
AT ABOUT THIS STAGE, MY DRAWING BEGINS TO LOOK A LITTLE LIKE UNRULY PASTA. IF YOURS DOES TOO, THAT'S OKAY. THE PASTA WILL BE DISCIPLINED
FOR CLEAN-UP, I USE A KNEADED ERASER TO ELIMINATE THE GUIDES THAT ARE NO LONGER USEFUL TO ME... SORT OF LIKE HOW I TREAT MY FRIENDS.
BUT THAT'S BETTER LEFT TO A SEPARATE TUTORIAL.
SOME GUIDES (SUCH AS THOSE HIGHLIGHTED IN BLUE HERE) I LEAVE IN PLACE BECAUSE THEY HELP EMPHASIZE SHAPE.
NEXT I SOLIDIFY THE LINEWORK. I'VE ALSO ADDED SOME SIMPLE SHADING HERE FOR A BIT OF CONTRAST.
OH. DON'T FORGET THE PINSTRIPES.
AND IF YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, THERE MIGHT STILL BE TIME TO FIX IT ...
NO
...DEPENDING ON HOW MANY CASUALTIES THERE WERE.
THERE. A GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH SEEMS INNOCUOUS ENOUGH.
IF HE STILL MANAGES TO DESTROY HALF A CITY BLOCK WITH IT,
I'LL JUST FIND SOME WAY TO RATIONALIZE. BUT THAT'S ALSO A SEPARATE TUTORIAL.

"Lackadaisy How-to-Draw" – a comprehensive study in putting inexcusable nonsense to paper. - *Tracy*

Digital Kvetching Time

A PAINTING TUTORIAL ADVENTURE WITH MORDECAI! (HURRAY)

THIS TUTORIAL RATHER RUDELY PRE-SUPPOSES YOU'RE USING ADOBE PHOTOSHOP AND THAT YOU KNOW WHAT THE HECK LAYERS ARE.

STEP 1 - I BEGIN SKETCHING WITH BASIC SHAPES AND GUIDELINES. I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT DETAILS AT THIS STAGE. IT'S ALL ABOUT GENERAL FORM, POSE AND PROPORTION.
STEP 2 - I START SOLIDIFYING THE FACIAL FEATURES AND ROUGHING IN DETAILS LIKE FABRIC FOLDS. I STRENGTHEN THE IMPORTANT LINES, BUT I LIKE TO LEAVE THE GUIDELINES IN PLACE FOR REFERENCE.
STEP 3 - HERE I CLEAN UP THE SKETCH, ERASING GUIDELINES I NO LONGER NEED AND ANY STRAY MARKINGS. OCCASIONALLY I DISCOVER AT THIS STAGE THAT MY DRAWING IS PEERING DISDAINFULLY AT ME, BUT I TRY NOT TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO THAT.
HE'S JUST CRABBY, BECAUSE I'M INTERRUPTING HIS MORNING TEA.
FEH.
STEP 4 - KEEPING IN MIND THE PLACEMENT OF THE LIGHT SOURCE I'VE CHOSEN FOR THIS PICTURE, I BEGIN DEFINING THE SUBJECT'S DIMENSION WITH SHADOW. THIS IS THE BEGINNINGS OF THE UNDERPAINTING - A SORT OF MAP FOR LIGHTING AND A FOUNDATION FOR COLORS TO LAY ON TOP OF.
I USUALLY WORK WITH LOW OPACITY HARD AND SOFT EDGED BRUSHES RIGHT ON TOP OF THE LINEWORK SINCE I DON'T WANT IT TO BE PART OF THE FINAL PRODUCT.
IF YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR LINEWORK, YOU CAN WORK IN LAYERS BENEATH IT. OR SET THE LAYER THE LINE ART IS ON TO MULTIPLY.
SURFACES FACING AWAY FORM THIS LIGHT SOURCE - SUCH AS THE UNDERSIDE OF MORDECAI'S CHIN AND THE BACK OF HIS RIGHT ARM - WILL BE SHADOWED
STEP 5 - WITH THE LIGHT SOURCE STILL IN MIND, I ADD THE HIGHLIGHTS TO THE UNDERPAINTING. I'VE USED SEPIA TONES BECAUSE I WANT THE OVERALL PAINTING TO BE TWINGED WITH THAT COLOR. UNDERPAINTINGS CAN BE ANY COLOR, THOUGH, AND DON'T NEED TO BE MONOCHROMATIC. FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU WERE PAINTING A FOREST SCENE, YOU MIGHT DO YOUR UNDERPAINTING IN SHADES OF GREEN AND YELLOW TO ACCOUNT FOR THE WAY THE LIGHT COMING THROUGH THE GREENERY SUFFUSES THE WHOLE ENVIRONMENT --
YOU'RE RAMBLING
SORRY.

STEP 6 - NOW I START APPLYING COLOR IN A NEW LAYER ON TOP OF THE UNDERPAINTING. I RECOMMEND USING LOW OPACITY BRUSHES - THE IDEA ISN'T TO COMPLETELY MASK THE UNDERPAINTING. ALLOWING SOME OF IT TO SHOW HELPS UNIFY YOUR COLOR PALETTE.
THE GHOSTLY IMAGE ON THE RIGHT IS ALL THE COLOR I'VE ADDED SO FAR. AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S MOSTLY TRANSPARENT SO THAT SOME OF THE UNDERLYING SEPIA TWINGES THE WHOLE IMAGE.
STEP 7 - HERE I'VE CONTINUED ADDING COLOR TO BRING OUT THE STRONGER HIGHLIGHTS. I'VE ALSO USED SOME SMALLER BRUSHES TO ADD SUBTLE TEXTURE TO THE FUR AND THE FABRIC OF THE WAISTCOAT.
THIS IS JUST A MAGNIFIED IMAGE OF THE FUR TEXTURE, WHICH I CREATE USING SHORT STROKES WITH A 1 OR 2 PIXEL DIAMETER BRUSH ON TOP OF THE BASE COLOR. VARYING TONE AND OPACITY, AND KEEPING IT FLOWING IN CONTOUR WITH THE CHARACTER'S SHAPE HELPS IT LOOK NATURAL.
STEP 8 - THE PAINTING WAS STILL LOOKING RATHER FLAT, SO I'VE ADDED SOME BACKLIGHTING, WHICH CAN BE FROM A LIGHT SOURCE BEHIND THE SUBJECT OR FROM THE AMBIENT LIGHT OF THE ENVIRONMENT THE SUBJECT OCCUPIES. HERE I'M USING A TRACE OF BLUE CONTOUR FOR DEPTH. THE LIGHT IMPLIES A SPACE BEHIND THE SUBJECT AND PULLS IT ... EXCUSE ME... PULLS HIM FORWARD FROM THE BACKGROUND SO THAT HE NO LONGER APPEARS SO FLAT. (UNFORTUNATELY, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID OF HIS PERSONALITY.)
IT?
AHEM. ALSO, IT'S USUALLY A BETTER IDEA TO PLAN YOUR ENTIRE COMPOSITION FIRST SO THAT YOU DON'T END UP TRYING TO PAINT A BACKGROUND AROUND YOUR SUBJECT OR SQUEEZE IN HACKNEYED BITS OF ENVIRONMENT AS I'VE DONE WITH THE TABLE TOP HERE...
A NON-DESCRIPT SMEAR? NICE TOUCH. I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE AN ABSTRACT ARTIST.
LASTLY, NEVER MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO HUMILIATE YOUR SUBJECT MATTER, PARTICULARLY THE UPTIGHT ONES WHO CAN'T KEEP THEIR PETTY CRITICISMS TO THEMSELVES.
HMM. I LIKE THIS LOOK. IT BRINGS OUT THE RUGGED INDIVIDUALIST IN YOU.
...IT'LL BRING OUT A HIGH CALIBER SEMI-AU
PETULANT LITTLE MESHUGGENEH.
THE END

This is a brief explanation of my approach to digital painting for colorized Lackadaisy artwork. Mordecai makes for rather indignant subject matter. - *Tracy*

Notes and References

Page 2 - The riverboat pictured here resembles a Streckfus Steamer, one of the vessels that would have been characteristic of the St. Louis Mississippi riverfront at the time. Riverboats of this type were famous in part for featuring live musical acts in the early days of jazz as they traveled up and downriver.

Page 2 - National Prohibition, enacted in 1920, marked the illegalization of the manufacture, distribution, and import of alcohol (for consumption) in the United States as established by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution and outlined by the Volstead Act. Rather than quell the prevalence of alcohol as a means of business and pleasure, however, the legislation transformed it into an underground enterprise and a trend of unprecedented organized crime followed. Unpopular, and largely considered a failure, the amendment was repealed in 1933.

Page 2 - The Limestone Caves winding beneath St. Louis are a reality, though in recent decades many of the caves have been destroyed by highway construction and filled in by building demolition.

Page 4 - The Spirit of St. Louis, named for the city of St. Louis and piloted by Charles Lindbergh, was the first plane to fly non-stop across the Atlantic. The famous flight was made in May of 1927 between New York and Paris.

Page 5 - The zoot suit Rocky is sporting is something of an anachronism. Although the very first zoot suits seem to have evolved out of the jazz culture of the late 1920's, they were much more a style of the 1930's and 40's when this distinct look carried with it a connotation of social rebellion.

Page 5 - English Cave is located in part beneath St. Louis' Benton Park. It reportedly had several secret manmade entrances in the south part of the city, but perhaps for safety concerns, known entrances seem to have been officially sealed off.

Page 7 - The Sunshine Special was a passenger train that ran on the Missouri-Pacific railroad between Austin, St. Louis and Little Rock from 1915 through the 1950's.

Page 9 - The Perils of Pauline was a popular action-suspense serial during the silent film era. One of Pauline's perils, of course, was being tied to railroad tracks.

Page 9 - Embalming fluid was one of a number of unsavory alcoholic products commonly used to cut bootleg liquor during Prohibition, occasionally with deadly results.

Page 10 - Albert Einstein published a paper entitled "Zur Quantentheorie der Strahlung" in 1917, predicting "stimulated emission", the eventual basis for laser physics.

Page 10 - Famous-Barr for most of the twentieth century was a major St. Louis department store with its flagship location at the ornate Railway Exchange Building. Recently, the chain was bought out by the Midwest division of Macy's, Inc.

Page 13 - The Union Trust Building was built in 1893, but is now better known to St. Louisans as 705 Olive. With its steel frame, it counts among the nation's earliest skyscrapers.

Page 15 - Old Man River is one of the Mississippi River's common nicknames.

Page 15 - Eads Bridge, built in 1874, largely with Carnegie steel, spans the Mississippi between Missouri and Illinois. Originally, it hosted trains, trolley cars and foot traffic. Today, it accommodates road traffic on top and the St. Louis Metrolink on the rail lines.

Page 16 - Roark is Rocky's proper name.

Page 18 - Homemade stills were commonly used to manufacture moonshine. They were also quite the fire hazard.

Page 20 - The electric ignition was a feature of most vehicles manufactured after 1920. Prior to that, cars were started primarily with a hand crank.

Page 27 - The St. Louis Bond Issue of 1923 was a large-scale civic undertaking to revitalize city growth, which included paving and widening roads and which, in ensuing years, saw the construction of new hotels, hospitals, plazas and the implementation of electrical streetlights for the whole of the city.

Page 27 - The Mayfair Room was St. Louis' first five-star restaurant. It opened in 1925 with the Wyndham Mayfair Hotel.

Page 29 - The Cajun dialect is a mix of multiple languages, predominantly English and Cajun French (a distinct dialect of Continental French).

Page 31 - McClure's was a once prominent political and literary magazine that saw the conception of muckraking journalism. A writing staff exodus eventually led to its transformation into a women's magazine in the 1920's.

Page 36 - The Browning Automatic Rifle, or BAR, was designed by John Browning and originally manufactured during WWI where it saw use as a light machine gun. The weapon's rapid rate of fire, comparative stopping power and ability to penetrate car bodies is perhaps what made it a famous favorite of the Barrow Gang in later years.

Page 37 - A nut zipper obliquely refers to an old fashioned chewy peanut-flavored candy called a Squirrel Nut Zipper® (proprietary of NECCO®). It's also eponymous of the band of the same name.

Page 38 - "Lady Dionysus" is an over-romanticized metaphorical name Rocky uses to describe Mitzi, not, as some readers have indicated, a mistakenly feminized reference to the deity himself.

Page 39 - The Thompson Sub-machine Gun, or Tommy Gun, was initially developed during WWI according to the designs of Gen. John T. Thompson. As the war ended before the new weapon made it to troops overseas, however, it instead became indelibly linked with a much different sort of warfare that afterwards played out among gangsters and law enforcement in the era of Prohibition.

Page 40 - "Success and glory are in the advance; disaster and shame lurk in the rear." -- Maj. Gen. John Pope, addressing his troops prior to the Second Battle of Bull Run, 1862.

Page 44 - "Cellar door" was, according to J.R.R. Tolkien, one of the most beautiful phrases in the English language. I don't suppose it remains true in this context. (Tolkien, J. R. R. "English and Welsh." 1955.)

Page 45-46 - The Lindy Hop, the Charleston, and the Breakaway were all popular dances of the time. The Lindy Hop (for which Charles Lindbergh was the namesake) was perhaps the longest-lived, as it evolved and remained popular into the swing era of the 1940's.

Page 47 - A raid in this case refers to a surprise incursion by either police or Prohibition Agents - an exclamation that would probably have cleared any speakeasy in a matter of minutes.

Page 55 - The Duesenberg J model, produced by the Auburn Automobile Company, was actually not introduced until 1928.

Page 58 - A peccary is a mammal resembling a pig and fairly common in the wilds of the Americas. An array of different bones have been discovered in the St. Louis caves, probably the result of animals (some long extinct) falling in through cracks or sinkholes in the ground above. (Hubert and Charlotte Rother. Lost Caves of St. Louis. St. Louis: Virginia Publishing Company. 1996)

Page 62 - Quicklime, or calcium oxide, applied to a body can rapidly render it visually unidentifiable. As such, aside from its practical uses, it's been a player in many a shady situation. Contrary to popular belief, though, it won't tend to destroy a body completely. Rather, the resulting formation of adipocere has a preserving effect.

Page 64 - Double-ought commonly refers to a buckshot pellet size of approximately .33 inches in diameter.

Page 64 - Chloral Hydrate is a depressant that was used as a sedative prior to the development of barbiturates and, likewise in the past, was often utilized in veterinary medicine as a general anesthetic.

Until next time...

Digital PDF

RECOMMENDED
Teen Up